



Your Voice Matters: Grade 12 Career Pathways Student Survey

(Note to Teachers: Questions 5, 6, 10, and 12 are optional to answer. All other questions require an answer.)

The College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) is conducting this survey as part of a province-wide study to better understand how Grade 12 students in Alberta feel about planning for their future careers. We are looking to learn what has helped, what has been challenging, and how schools can better support students to feel ready for a career after high school.

Your voice matters. Your answers will help school leaders across Alberta improve career education, so future students get the support they need. There are no right or wrong answers. The survey is anonymous and takes about 15–20 minutes to complete.

Whether you are already set on a specific career path or are still undecided, your participation in the survey can contribute to a broader understanding of the career experiences of Grade 12 students in Alberta high schools.

We appreciate your reply on or before Friday, November 21, 2025. Thank you!

A. About You

This survey includes both multiple choice and short answer questions. Please answer based on your own experiences and opinions. Choose the option that best fits you or share your thoughts in your own words.

1. What grade level are you currently in?

- Grade 12
- Other (please specify)

2. How old are you?

- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- Other (please specify)

3. Which of the following best describes the area where your school is located?

- In a large city (like Calgary or Edmonton)
- In a smaller city (like St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove, Red Deer, Airdrie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie, or Fort McMurray)

- In a rural area (school is in a small town, village, or agricultural community)
- In a remote community (far from cities, with fewer services and harder access)

4. Which area of Alberta best describes where your school is located? Choose the option that fits the best.

- Zone 1 – North: near Grande Prairie, High Level, Peace River, Fort Vermilion, La Crête
- Zone 2/3 – North Central: near Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Bonnyville, St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Lloydminster, Westlock, Athabasca, Spruce Grove, Slave Lake, Whitecourt
- Zone 4 - Central: near Red Deer, Lacombe, Ponoka, Olds, Stettler, Millet, Coronation, Rocky Mountain House, Camrose
- Zone 5 - South Central: near Calgary, Airdrie, Okotoks, High River, Strathmore, Banff, Canmore, Three Hills, Hanna, Drumheller, Oyen, Vulcan
- Zone 6 - South: near Lethbridge, Brooks, Taber, Claresholm, Medicine Hat, Dunmore, Cardston

B. Exploring Career Thinking

5. When did you first start thinking seriously about your future after high school?

- Before Grade 7
- Grade 7 or 8
- Grade 9
- Grade 10
- Grade 11
- Grade 12
- I have not started thinking about my future after high school.

6. What supports have helped guide your thinking about future careers or post-secondary pathways? (Select all that apply.)

Personal Influences

- Family
- Friends
- Elder
- Coach or mentor

School Career Support

- Teachers
- School counselor or career advisor
- One-on-one career planning meeting
- Career planning workshop
- CTF (Career and Technology Foundations) course (Grades 5–9)
- CTS (Career and Technology Studies) course(s) (Grades 10-12)
- Collegiate or career pathway program offered at your school

Career Learning Opportunities

- Career exploration day or field trip
- Career presentations or guest speakers
- Try-a-Trade® event, camp, or hands-on workshop
- Post-secondary campus visit, open house, or presentation
- Off-campus education program (e.g., Work Experience, RAP, Green Certificate)
- Dual credit program (High school + college course)

Media and Digital Resources

- Career Websites
- Social media (e.g., TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube)
- Career quizzes or self-assessments

C. Engaging in Career Thinking

7. How much do you feel your school programming has helped you figure out and work toward meaningful career goals?

- Very helpful
- Helpful
- Not helpful

8. What types of challenges, if any, have you faced while planning your career path in high school? (Select all that apply.)

Interest and Self-Awareness

- I'm still figuring out what interests me.
- I'm not yet confident about my strengths or skills.
- I have not really thought much about career planning.
- I feel confident about my career direction and haven't faced major challenges so far.

Access to Information and Support

- I haven't had enough help or guidance.
- I'm unsure what programs or career options are available.

Learning Opportunities

- I haven't taken many career-focused courses.
- I haven't had many career-related opportunities (like guest speakers, events, or planning tools).
- I haven't had the chance to try real-world experiences like job shadowing or work placements.

Personal and Life Challenges

- I've had personal or family things going on.
- I'm concerned about the cost of post-secondary education or training.

- I've found some schoolwork or classes difficult.

Experiencing Career Thinking

9. Rate how much each of the following career-related learning experiences has helped you feel more confident in your career decisions.

(Responses are very helpful, helpful, not helpful, I did not have these experiences)

- Junior High Options
- High School CTS courses
- CALM course
- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)
- Dual credit course(s)
- Job shadow or workplace tour
- Work experience
- Career fairs or events
- Try-A-Trade® events or camps
- Guest Speakers
- Conversations with teachers, counsellors or career advisors about career pathways
- Post-secondary presentations and/or on-site visits
- Career Planning Tools (e.g.,myBlueprint, Xello, ALIS.ca)

10. Is there another type of experience not listed above that helped you feel more confident about your career decisions? If yes, please explain.

11. To what extent has participating in workplace learning or career pathway programs helped you feel ready for life after high school?

- Very helpful
- Helpful
- Not helpful
- I did not have these experiences.

12. Rate the conditions that are essential for helping you feel successful when making decisions about your future career. (Very helpful, helpful, not helpful)

- Feeling supported by teachers, counselors, or mentors
- Having access to one-on-one career guidance
- Being given time in school to explore career options
- Using a career planning tool provided by my school
- Taking part in hands-on or real-world learning experiences
- Seeing clear connections between school and real-world careers
- Feeling confident in my skills and abilities
- Being encouraged to explore different career pathways
- Getting clear information about career pathways
- Having access to role models

- Listening to guest speakers from different careers

13. Is there another type of condition that you believe is essential for helping you feel successful when making decisions about your future career? If yes, please explain.

14. What could your school do to make career education more helpful, especially if you are thinking about trades, technology, or apprenticeship pathways as a career?