



Promoting the Voice of Autistic Students: A Survey of Inclusive Education Experiences

What Is Our Ask?

The Autism Alberta's Alliance, Education Community of Practice is inviting you to contribute to the "Survey to Promote the Voice of Autistic Students". It is a 15-20 – minute survey to gather information about enablers and barriers to students' inclusive experiences.

Who We Are

The Education Community of Practice (ECOP) is a collective of educators, Autistic individuals, and supporting professionals dedicated to student success (we are not affiliated with Alberta Education). We have come together as part of Autism Alberta's Alliance, an initiative of Autism Society of Alberta as a diverse group of stakeholders from across the province with a shared interest in improving outcomes for Autistic Albertans. The vision of the ECOP is to be a trusted resource for individuals, families, educational professionals, and policy makers on how to best meet the educational needs of Autistic students.



<https://autismalberta.ca/alliance/education-community-of-practice/>

What Is The Work Of The ECOP?

The ECOP wants to better understand the inclusive experiences of Autistic students. We are designing and testing a brief survey that will gather information about students' classroom experiences. With greater understanding of the inclusive experiences of Autistic students, educational supports may be used more effectively and efficiently, enhancing students' outcomes across the province.

Why This Survey Matters

Feeling a sense of belonging is foundational to student engagement and success. Many Autistic students have barriers to feeling a sense of belonging. While Alberta Education does assess student learning and satisfaction, it does not provide information about the specific inclusive experiences of Autistic students. This survey will provide insights into students' experiences and share concrete strategies that teachers can action immediately to enhance students' sense of belonging.

How Will The Data Be Used?

Short-term:

- Collect meaningful data on the inclusive experiences of Autistic students.
- Share actionable resources with teachers that promote students' sense of belonging.

Medium-term:

- Develop a province-wide data set of the students' inclusive experiences.
- Share data with school jurisdictions to help inform decision-making.

Long-term:

- Use data to recommend enhancements to Alberta Education's Inclusive Education Framework.
- Continue using as an evaluation tool to understand the impact of the enhanced Inclusive Education Framework.

Who Has Access To The Data?

In the interim, the results of the anonymous survey data will be held by Autism Alberta's Alliance. It is the hope of the Alliance that the survey and associated data will eventually be adopted by Alberta Education.

How Long Is The Survey?

This survey is comprised of 20 questions for the student and 4 questions for the teacher to give us feedback on the survey itself. Approximate time required: 15-20 minutes.

What Students Should Be Included In The Survey?

We ask that this survey be completed by a teacher for a student in Grades 7-12 who has a formal identification of Autism (e.g., AB Education code 58 or 44) and who is able to participate meaningfully in a teacher-administered survey with minimal adult assistance.

This **may** look like a student who:

- Accesses accommodations.
- Accesses universal or targeted supports.
- Uses functional spoken and/or written language to communicate needs, thoughts, and responses.
- Generally able to remain in the classroom and engage in learning for the majority of the day.