



## THOUGHTEXCHANGE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

### “What are your thoughts regarding the *Draft K-6 Curriculum?*”

#### Background

A ThoughtExchange survey was launched from October 18, 2021 until October 25, 2021 asking for parents, guardians, board members, administrators, staff, and other Holy Spirit Catholic School Division community members: **What are your thoughts regarding the *Draft K-6 Curriculum?*** The current *Draft K-6 Curriculum* was released by the Government of Alberta on March 29, 2021.

#### Survey Demographics

A total of 225 individuals participated in the ThoughtExchange. Of those, 96 provided 224 thoughts and 131 rated and ranked those thoughts using a total of 4,566 stars.



**225**  
Participants



**224**  
Thoughts



**4,566**  
Ratings

#### Survey participant's role in the school division:

	Number	Percentage
An employee	30	14%
A parent/guardian	181	84%
A community member	5	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>100%</b>

The school the survey participant most closely associates with:

	Number	Percentage
Catholic Central High School, Lethbridge	8	4%
Children of St. Martha School, Lethbridge	19	9%
Ecole St. Mary, Lethbridge	17	8%
E-Learning/Trinity Learning Centre	2	1%
Father Leonard Van Tighem, Lethbridge	34	16%
Our Lady of the Assumption School, Lethbridge	12	6%
St. Basil Catholic Education Centre, Lethbridge	4	2%
St. Catherine School, Picture Butte	8	4%
St. Francis Junior High School, Lethbridge	13	6%
St. Joseph School, Coaldale	14	7%
St. Mary School, Taber	4	2%
St. Michael's School, Bow Island	4	2%
St. Michael's School, Pincher Creek	11	5%
St. Patrick Fine Art School, Lethbridge	21	10%
St. Patrick School, Taber	11	5%
St. Paul School, Lethbridge	7	3%
St. Teresa of Calcutta School, Lethbridge	20	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Survey participant's general feeling about the current Draft K-6 Curriculum:

	Number	Percentage
I approve of it.	24	13%
I approve of it, with some revisions.	33	17%
I do not approve of it.	132	70%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Top Thoughts

The following are the most highly ranked thoughts found in the ThoughtExchange:

Ranking	Thought*	Average Star Rating
1st	<b>Social Studies aspect not aligning with Canadian history.</b> We need to teach our kids accurate Canadian history and not an Americanized version	4.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Having a curriculum rolled out in six grades all at the same time is madness!</b> Some kid who are in grade 4 won't have the pre-requisite skills in math in order to take (currently) the junior high material like fraction operations	4.4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>The social studies curriculum is a step backwards and is too focused on American history rather than Canadian history</b> needs to be more focus on Canadian history that is inclusive and promotes acceptance of other religions and cultures	4.4
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The scaffolding is not there</b> Students will have a hard time learning the content because the proper scaffolding has not been put in place by this curriculum	4.4
5th	<b>The government is politically pushing through a largely unsupported curriculum, on the heels of the largest modern disruption to education (pandemic)?</b> Politics should not drive curriculum and learning navigation for children.	4.4
6th	<b>I am deeply concerned that research in teaching and learning was dismissed, due to lack of consultation with educators.</b> Education practices are always evolving, and there are so many exciting stories of student engagement and deep learning. This feels backward.	4.4
7th	<b>Errors like asking students to draw/measure the route the NWMP took from FT. Carlton to Duck Lake on a map of Alberta (Both are in SK) point to a lack of subject matter knowledge by the supposed "experts" writing the draft.</b> Curriculum should be written by people who know what they are writing about.	4.4
8th	<b>Age-appropriateness of subject matter, themes and skills are not representative of studied and well-documented stages of brain development.</b> Kids need connection in order to learn. Their worlds are closely linked to their daily experience, not to world history and viewpoints.	4.4
9th	<b>Not age appropriate</b> The social studies for grade 2 is far beyond 6/7 year old minds. It's asking students to memorize facts rather than use critical thinking skills.	4.3
10th	<b>Unnecessarily prescriptive activities/assignments, some inappropriate or invasive.</b> Students are asked to bring in a parent's bank statement as an exercise in financial literacy, which is deeply inappropriate.	4.3

\* Please note that all quoted "Thoughts" are taken directly from the survey and are **NOT** edited in any way.

## Major Themes/Categories

In reviewing the 224 thoughts provided, seven (7) categories emerged. The following table identifies each these categories, shows how many thoughts were included in each, the overarching ranking of those thoughts, and the top thought for each category.

Identified Theme / Categories	Number of Thoughts within Theme / Category	Average Star Rating for Theme / Category	Top Thought <sup>†</sup> within Theme/Category
Curriculum Content	90	4.1	<b>Social Studies aspect not aligning with Canadian history.</b> We need to teach our kids accurate Canadian history and not an Americanized version
Age/Developmental Appropriateness	51	4.2	<b>The scaffolding is not there.</b> Students will have a hard time learning the content because the proper scaffolding has not been put in place by this curriculum
Consultation/Process	41	4.2	<b>Having a curriculum rolled out in six grades all at the same time is madness!</b> Some kid who are in grade 4 won't have the pre-requisite skills in math in order to take (currently) the junior high material like fraction operations
Diversity	22	3.8	<b>Diversity and Inclusion.</b> There is little regard for the diversity of cultures, families, languages, traditions that the kids of today need but the adults are afraid of.
Generally satisfied with the curriculum presented	8	1.7	<b>If its not broken dont fix it</b>
Generally dissatisfied with the curriculum presented	7	3.6	<b>I worry about the change to the curriculum. I have talked to others in the community and most parents that I have talked to do not approve of changes, I am not in agreement with the changes</b>
Notes – Unthemed	5	3.1	<b>Instead of teaching children to ask for consent, it is teaching them to go ahead and take it unless told no.</b> As someone that has dealt with domestic SA, this is truly traumatizing to think about.

<sup>†</sup> Please note that all quoted “Thoughts” are taken directly from the survey and are **NOT** edited in any way.

## Subcategories within “Curriculum Content” Category

Within the 91 comments found in the “Curriculum Content,” a variety of feedback was provided. As such, additional analysis was conducted to further categorize the thoughts presented in this area. The following table identifies each these sub-categories, shows how many thoughts were included in each, the overarching ranking of those thoughts, and the top thought for each sub-category.

Identified Subcategory	Number of Thoughts within Subcategory	Average Star Rating for Subcategory	Top Thought <sup>‡</sup> within Subcategory
Curriculum - General	51	4.1	<b>The draft curriculum is counter intuitive to evidence based teaching, learning, education and discounts the quality of education. It is not inclusive,</b> Students need to learn to be critical thinkers, to gain knowledge through a diverse range of worldviews, approaches and one that is rooted in evidenc
Curriculum - Indigenous Culture	13	4.2	<b>There is a lack of authentic Indigenous material.</b> Indigenous education should be taught authentically, and should be created by Indigenous educators, of which we have many wonderful ones in AB
Curriculum - Social Studies	11	4.4	<b>Social Studies aspect not aligning with Canadian history.</b> We need to teach our kids accurate Canadian history and not an Americanized version
Curriculum - Financial Literacy	6	3.8	<b>Unnecessarily prescriptive activities/assignments, some inappropriate or invasive.</b> Students are asked to bring in a parent’s bank statement as an exercise in financial literacy, which is deeply inappropriate.
Curriculum - Health and Wellness	4	4.0	<b>The health and wellness unit in gym focuses on weight, measurement, macros, and "normal" as healthy.</b> This is breeding grounds for eating disorders, body image issues, and poverty segregation.
Curriculum - Science	4	3.5	<b>Are they really taking dinosaurs out of the science curriculum?</b> We have a world class paleontology museum +a plethora of unique fossil finds eg. Albertosaurus. You can't cancel science b/c of religious beliefs
Curriculum - Math	3	3.8	<b>I am very disappointed in what looks like a math curriculum that lends itself to a memorization and regurgitation system.</b> I prefer that students learn how to come to their answers as the processes of math are just as important as the answers in developing critical thinkin

<sup>‡</sup> Please note that all quoted “Thoughts” are taken directly from the survey and are **NOT** edited in any way.

## For More Information

To further review and explore the feedback provided through this ThoughtExchange survey, visit:

- <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/report/35c737a9909b8bbea0194f4046c472c2>

To further review the current *Draft K-6 Curriculum*, which was publicly released on March 29, 2021, visit:

- <https://www.alberta.ca/curriculum.aspx> (for an overview/synopsis) or
- <https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/curriculum/en> (for the comprehensive document).