

Bill 25 Update: What You Need to Know

There has been a lot of discussion about Bill 25 and what it means for Alberta's schools. I want to provide a clear update for families and community members in Ward D about what has happened so far and what we can expect next.

Bill 25, the **An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026**, received Royal Assent on May 14, 2026.

Most of the changes in the legislation came into force on September 1, 2026. However, some of the changes still require regulations or additional direction from the provincial government before they can be fully implemented.

This means that while Bill 25 is now law, **implementation is still taking place in stages**.

What is in effect now?

Bill 25 includes changes in several areas of education, including:

- classroom neutrality and the presentation of different viewpoints;
- parental involvement in their child's education;
- expectations for school boards and employees;
- student codes of conduct;
- trustee responsibilities and codes of conduct;
- literacy and numeracy supports; and
- new provincial authority related to certain school properties.

Some of these changes will have a direct impact on how school boards and schools operate, while others will require further provincial direction before we know exactly how they will work in practice.

What is still to come?

Some of the changes that have received the most public attention are **not yet fully in effect**.

Flags and the national anthem: Bill 25 includes new requirements related to the flags displayed in schools and the playing of the Canadian national anthem. The province has **not yet set the effective and compliance dates** for these requirements. More information is expected from the province in fall 2026.

School names: The legislation will require provincial approval for the naming or renaming of public school buildings.The regulations that will establish the process are still being developed. The province has not yet provided an effective date.



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Underused school property: Another significant change gives the Minister of Education new authority to direct the transfer of certain school board-owned property to the provincial government. The regulations will determine which properties could be affected. The province has said more information is expected this fall. These are important changes for local communities, so I will continue to follow the details as they are released.

Changes to the role of trustees

Bill 25 also changes the environment in which locally elected school trustees do their work.

Trustees are elected by their communities to govern their school division. We set policy, approve budgets, oversee the work of the superintendent and advocate for the students and communities we represent. Bill 25 adds new requirements and limits to this role. For example, a trustee seeking a nomination in a federal election or by-election must now take an unpaid leave of absence.

The province is also establishing new principles for trustee codes of conduct. These will include expectations around responsible governance and protections related to freedom of speech. The province has indicated that further details will be provided as the new Ministerial Order is developed.

There are also new requirements affecting school boards' public statements on political, social and ideological matters.

At the same time, the province is increasing its oversight of some school board decisions. For example, school boards will continue to appoint their superintendents, but new and renewed superintendent employment contracts will require approval from the Minister of Education and Childcare before they can be finalized.

These changes matter because school boards are locally elected bodies. The way these new provincial requirements are put into practice will help shape how trustees carry out their responsibilities to their communities.



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What happens next?

The province has identified several upcoming dates as part of the phased implementation of Bill 25:-

- October 31, 2026: A new regulation establishing provincial strategic priorities for school authorities is expected to take effect.
- December 1, 2026: Several additional requirements are expected to take effect, including changes related to teacher professional conduct and trustee codes of conduct.
- Fall 2026: The province is expected to provide more information about the regulations for flags, the national anthem, school naming and underused school property.

What does this mean for Ward D?

There are still important details to come. As your trustee, I will continue to follow the provincial regulations and implementation plans as they are released. My focus will be on understanding what these changes mean for our students, families, staff and schools, and making sure our community has clear information as the work continues.

As an individual trustee, I also want to be candid that not all of these changes are ones I would have chosen. I believe decisions about how we support students, engage families and govern our schools are strongest when they are grounded in local context, informed by educators and families, and accountable to the communities we serve. Some of the changes in Bill 25 shift that balance toward greater provincial direction and oversight. This is my perspective as your trustee, not a position of the Edmonton Public Schools Board. As a trustee, I will continue to pay close attention to how that affects our schools and our ability to respond to the needs of students and families in Edmonton.

Bill 25 is a provincial law, but its implementation will be experienced in our local schools and communities. I will continue to keep Ward D updated as we learn more.

Learn More:

- Bill 25 overview and implementation information: Removing politics and ideology from Alberta classrooms
- Bill 25 fact sheet: Bill 25 Fact Sheet
- Literacy and numeracy screening: Literacy and numeracy screening
- Superintendent contract approval: Superintendent contract approval
- Proclamations and dates legislation comes into force: Alberta proclamations
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