

The email below was sent in summer 2015 to all teachers from Lorna Rosen, Deputy Minister of Education. It stipulates that the standard algorithms and strategies are now to be used and taught in classrooms. The first link brings you to a page that contains a link to a pdf called Summary of Updates to Alberta K-9 Achievement Indicators. This pdf clearly states that from Grade 2 upwards, an achievement indicator is to solve a given problem using the standard/traditional algorithm.

*Dear Colleagues:*

*In June 2014, Alberta Education clarified the expectations of the Alberta Mathematics Kindergarten to Grade 9 (K-9) Program of Studies by updating the program of studies and support documents. The updates clarified the expectation that students are able to recall addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts, as well as multiplication tables, and that they investigate a variety of strategies and become proficient in at least one appropriate and efficient strategy (strategies may include traditional algorithms, such as long division and vertical addition). The clarifications also reinforced that Alberta Education does not prescribe any specific instructional approach; teachers have the flexibility to determine the best instructional approach to help meet their students' needs.*

*Alberta Education is focused on continuous improvement and is using feedback to further refine our K-9 mathematics curriculum. This includes expanded professional learning opportunities for teachers, identifying additional program support resources and reinforcing the basics through provincial assessment.*

*Leading up to the 2015 school year, I want to draw your attention to some new and updated supports and professional learning opportunities to assist you and your staff with the implementation of Alberta's mathematics program. All of these materials will be posted on Alberta Education's mathematics web page <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/math.aspx> in time for teachers to access them prior to September 2015:*

- *The Alberta K–9 Mathematics Achievement Indicators (2015) resource. This resource has been updated to include standard/traditional algorithm achievement indicators in the Grades 2 to 5 number strand. Achievement indicators provide suggested samples of how students may demonstrate their achievement of the learner outcomes in the mathematics program. The Summary of Updates highlights all revisions for easy reference and comparison.*
- *Sample Standard/Traditional Algorithms is the newest fact sheet in our series aimed at supporting teachers in the implementation of the K-9 Mathematics Program of Studies. The fact sheet provides samples of standard/traditional algorithms for all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division).*
- *List of Additional Support Resources for the K-9 Mathematics Program of Studies. This list was developed in collaboration with teachers and administrators throughout Alberta to provide further support for the K-9 Mathematics Program of Studies. While the resources on this list are not authorized, they have been reviewed by Alberta Education for Recognizing Diversity and promoting Respect<<http://education.alberta.ca/media/646277/rdpr.pdf%20>> appropriateness. Curriculum congruency for each resource was provided by publishers and/or external partners. Teachers are encouraged to review the resources to determine how they can support their students' needs.*
- *Video Resources – Alberta Education has developed a new series of high school math videos (English<<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/math/videos.aspx>> and French<<http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/core/math/videos.aspx>>) that showcase professionals (engineers, RCMP officers, nurses, bakers, pipe fitters) discussing how the attitudes, skills and knowledge acquired in mathematics are important in their careers. The*

*videos also highlight how the high school math course sequences (-1, -2 and -3) support Alberta students in entering various careers.*

*- Professional Development Opportunities*

*In the 2015/2016 school year, a series of learning opportunities will be offered across the province through the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) to teachers and pre-service teachers. These learning opportunities will provide additional support in the areas of mathematics content, assessment, choices for instructional practice, resources and communicating with parents. They will extend throughout the 2016/2017 school year and beyond. Check the ARPDC Learning Portal <http://learning.arpdc.ab.ca/> or contact your regional consortium <<https://arpdc.ab.ca/index.php/en/consortium-map>> for updates and registration.*

*I wish you the best as you start the new school year.*

*Lorna Rosen*

*Deputy Minister of Education*