

2023 BEYOND CAPACITY

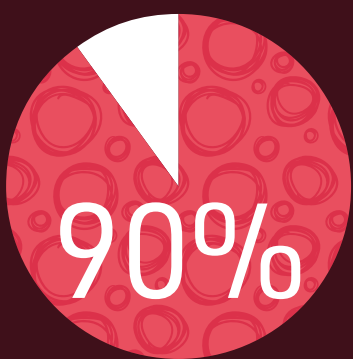
LARGE CLASS SIZES
& Complex Needs in Alberta Schools

“

Our class sizes keep getting larger.
We are getting more students with
significant needs with little or no support.

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CLASSROOM COMPLEXITY



OF TEACHERS REPORTED

The complexity and diversity
of student needs have increased...

...yet classroom supports have
decreased over the past year.

Areas of Greatest
Classroom Complexity



Social / Emotional



Behavioural



Cognitive

INCLUSION WITHOUT FUNDING & SUPPORTS IS ABANDONMENT!

“

I feel like a fraud telling parents the
system line that inclusion is the best for
their child. Inclusion only works when
the resources and supports are in place.

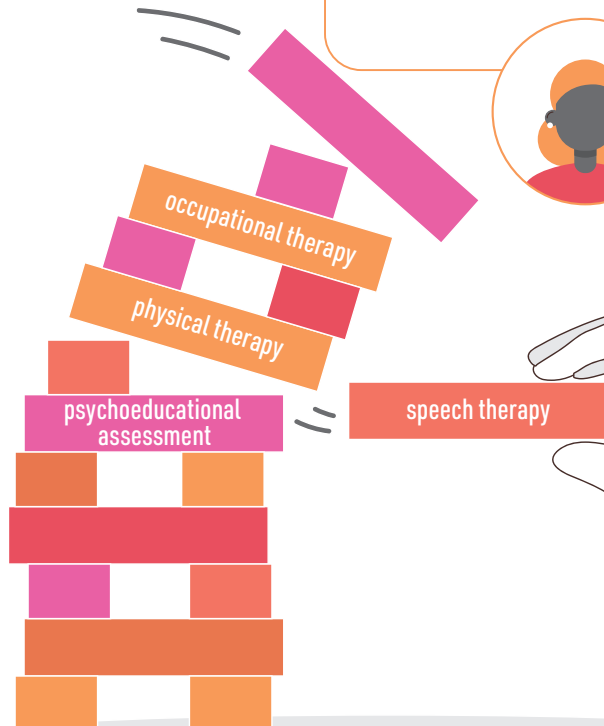
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58%

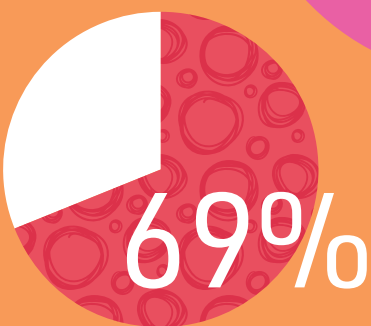
OF TEACHERS REPORT

A decrease in support for
students with special needs.

In fact, half of those that requested speech,
occupational therapy, physical therapy,
and psycho-educational assessments
believe they will never see this happen.



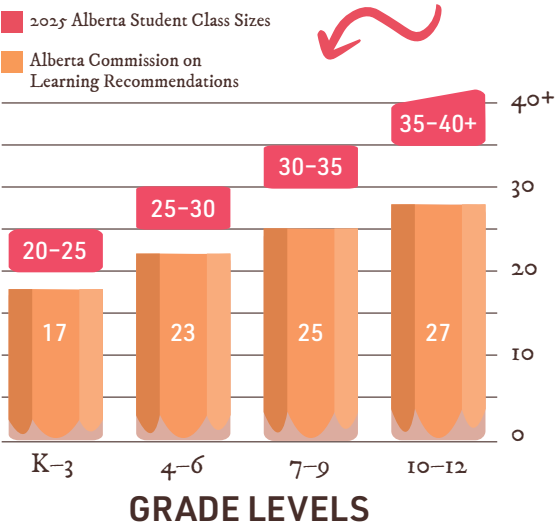
LARGER CLASS SIZES



OF TEACHERS HAVE SEEN
Their class sizes increase
this school year.

40 IS THE NEW 30

Most common class sizes in Alberta by grade level.



“Much of my time is spent managing behaviours rather than teaching.”

SOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED BY ALBERTA TEACHERS

Reduce Class Sizes

Implement policies to reduce class sizes that enable more personalized attention.

Enhance Human Supports and Inclusion Resources

Increase classroom supports with additional teachers and educational assistants, inclusive learning resources, and mental health services.



Strengthen Teacher Support Systems

Develop robust support systems for teachers, including professional development opportunities and resources to support student and staff mental health.

Facilitate Effective Curriculum Implementation

Provide comprehensive training and resources for new curricula, ensuring teachers are well equipped to adapt to educational changes.

Improve Communication and Respect

Foster a culture of respect and trust between teachers, school leaders, system leaders, parents and government bodies, recognizing the critical role teachers play in shaping the future of education.

Click or scan QR code for the full report.



*Pulse Rapid Research Study 2025

January 9-31, 2025
Highly Representative Random Stratified and Snowball Sample of 2,833 Alberta Teachers and School Leaders
Margin of Error +/- 2.0% (19 times out of 20)

For more information about this research study, please contact:
Dr. Philip McRae, Alberta Teachers' Association
research@ata.ab.ca | www.teachers.ab.ca



The Alberta Teachers' Association