

Divisions I and II, the principle of non-grading, involving continuous progress and flexible promotion, has been adopted. Division III programs have been planned to meet the special needs of pupils in the 13- to 15-year-old age group faced with the problems of emerging adolescence. Division IV is undergoing major changes in the scope of courses offered and in the content and methods used within particular subject areas. Amendments to the Saskatchewan School Act allow for exclusion from the regular system of children mentally deficient and incapable of learning. Educable handicapped children attend special classes in regular schools; blind and deaf children between seven and 16 years of age are educated in special schools.

Vocational subjects may be taken in general, industrial arts, commercial or special terminal programs, but none of these qualify the student for university entrance. Vocational courses in high schools were set up to provide a closer liaison between those schools and the technical institutes. Most vocational students in grade 9, apart from those in the commercial course, take five shops not associated with any one specific trade; similarly, students in grade 10 may take two shops. Five institutes and colleges offer vocational courses only at both post-secondary and trades levels. They have taken over the total responsibility for the nurses' (RN) diploma program.

The University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina both offer many degree programs.

Alberta. Education is under constant review by the province's Commission on Educational Planning, charged with the broad task of predicting what Alberta society will be like educationally, socially and economically during the last decades of the 20th century. Innovations in the elementary-secondary level include: extensive experimentation in programs carried out at the local school level; the use of French as the language of instruction during 50% of the school day in grades 3-12 in certain schools; construction of modern buildings incorporating the latest design in instructional facilities; movement toward the semester system and other methods of dividing the school year; and implementation of school television projects. The province is organized into divisions for purposes of education and each division is administered by its own school board.

Kindergarten classes are not part of the provincial school system although some school boards, particularly those in the cities, do provide such classes. In addition, about 20% of five-year-old children are enrolled in privately operated nursery schools and kindergartens.

The two predominant patterns of school organization are: elementary school (grades 1-6), junior high school (grades 7-9) and senior high school (grades 10-12); or elementary school (grades 1-8) and high school (grades 9-12). Alberta operates its secondary schools on the composite or comprehensive principle. Most of the wide range of vocational programs are offered in grades 10-12. In grade 12, some of the vocational courses lead to the granting of 15-20 credits; 100 credits are required for an Alberta High School Diploma.

In the fall of 1971, a new Department of Advanced Education was formed, separate from the Department of Education. This department was responsible for universities, public colleges, institutes of technology and the agricultural and vocational colleges formerly under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. Vocational programs at the post-secondary level are now offered through the community college system.

Nurses' (RN) diploma programs are given at both hospital schools and four community colleges: Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Mount Royal and Red Deer.

One large university, the University of Alberta, offers a variety of courses including fine and applied arts, arts and science, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, household science, engineering and applied science, agriculture, library science, law and education. The province also has two other universities — the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. The Collège universitaire Saint-Jean offers a bilingual program toward the BA, BEd, and BSc degrees. A number of affiliated colleges offer up to two years of university level education.