

Research Partnerships Program

2026 Call for Proposals

Overview

Research plays a vital role in ensuring that policies and practices in the education system are evidence-based. Alberta Education and Childcare is providing a funding opportunity to support research in key areas in early childhood to Grade 12 education.

The Research Partnerships Program facilitates opportunities for research connections between post-secondary research institutions and school authorities. This program is intended to support collaborative research projects that focus on research questions most relevant to Alberta's education system.

Funds provided by the program will support research priorities that have the potential to impact the early childhood to Grade 12 education system and improve outcomes for students.

Research Priorities

1. Impact of Violent Incidents on Teacher Retention and Recruitment
2. Quantifying Instructional Time Lost to Behavioural Management
3. Long term Remediation Rates of K-3 Literacy Screening
4. Efficacy of Disciplinary Policies on Recidivism
5. Quantifiable Benefits of Mobile Device Restrictions

Please see page 3 for detailed requirements for each priority.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Research Partnerships Program, submitting organizations are limited to school authorities and faculties at post-secondary institutions.

- The submitting organization must be a member of the Alberta Research Network as per the Member Organizations List.
- If multiple individuals in the partnership are from a post-secondary institution, at least one of the individuals must be from an Alberta Research Network member faculty.

- The primary investigator must be a faculty member at an Alberta post-secondary institution that conducts educational research.
- The research team must include appropriate school authority representatives.
- The research project must be directly relevant to one or more of the Research Priorities.

Invitation to Submit a Proposal

Research partnerships that meet the eligibility requirements are invited to submit a short research proposal and a completed grant application form to Alberta Education and Childcare for the Research Partnerships Program.

Both the proposal (including letters of support) and the Application for Conditional Grant Funding form are due no later than 4:30 p.m. MST on March 4, 2026.

Alberta Education and Childcare's Research and Policy Branch is not responsible for issues (technical or otherwise) that may result in a proposal not being received by the 2026 Call for Proposals closing date and time.

Only research proposals that meet all eligibility requirements and that are submitted on time will be considered for funding.

Research Funding

Up to \$250,000 will be awarded through this 2026 Call for Proposals.

If selected, your research partnership will receive a conditional grant to support your collaborative research project.

There are two grant options available. Individual applications can only be submitted for one of the following grant options:

Strategic Opportunity Grant

A \$20,000 to \$50,000 grant for small- to medium-scale studies with shorter timelines (up to two years) including, but not limited to:

- secondary data analysis;
- environmental scan;
- evaluation of an existing program; or
- single-cycle, single-informant, and/or single-site investigation.

Comprehensive Grant

A \$50,000 to \$80,000 grant for large-scale studies with longer timelines (up to three years), including but not limited to:

- design-based investigation;
- capacity building initiative; or
- multi-cycle, multi-informant, and/or multi-site investigation.

For each option, funding can be used toward:

- collaborative planning;

- conducting the research;
- participating in research meetings hosted by Research and Policy Branch; and
- disseminating (within Canada) knowledge generated through research activities.

Indirect Costs of Research

All research incurs indirect institutional costs that benefit and support the research. For this Call for Proposals, a maximum of 10% of the Research Partnerships Program grant funding is permitted to cover indirect costs.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals must include the following information:

- **Proposal Title Page:** Study title, names of research partner organizations and the project's key contact. **Note:** Proposals must be submitted along with letters of support, and the complete and signed application form by the individual who will serve as the key contact for the project (either from Alberta school authority or Alberta post-secondary institution).
- **Research Project Description** (maximum 5,000 words):
 - **Overview:** A brief description of the project, including an evidence-based rationale and project goals.
 - **Focus:** Identify which of the eight research priorities will be addressed and indicate how the study could improve the education system and outcomes for students.
 - **Research Partners:** Identify the research partnership team members, including each member's role(s) and responsibilities within the research project, as well as relevant qualifications and experience. **Note:** Diverse perspectives and collaboration among multiple school authorities or post-secondary institutions are encouraged. It is important to describe specific principles and processes that will guide how team members will work together as partners.
 - **Research Outline:** Provide a brief research outline, including proposed research question(s), methodology, relevance to the identified research priority or priorities, potential applications or implications, and timeline. Preference will be given to research designs that include clearly articulated outcome measures.
 - **Participants:** Identify the types of participants (e.g., teachers, students) from whom you intend to collect data. Include an estimate of the number of each type of participant.
 - **Knowledge Mobilization Plan:** Indicate how you will support the building and sharing of knowledge within Canada (e.g., presentations, publications, briefs, webinars, posters, etc.). **Note:** Successful applicants will be required to participate in knowledge-sharing opportunities sponsored by Alberta Education and Childcare.
- **Budget:** Provide an itemized budget indicating the

requested funding amount and how the funds will be spent. Indirect costs must be specified and presented as a separate line item. Include any matching funds and/or in-kind support that will be provided by the partners. Priority consideration will be given to proposals that include matching funds.

Grant recipients and their research partners are expected to keep records and receipts for costs and to account for the use of the grant funds provided.

The budget should align with the appropriate funding for the intended grant option:

- **Strategic Opportunity Grant:** any amount between \$20,000 and \$50,000
- **Comprehensive Grant:** any amount between \$50,000 and \$80,000
- **Letters of Support:** Provide letters of support from the senior leadership of every partner organization named in the proposal. These letters will be used to evaluate organizational knowledge of and investment in the proposed project.

Submission Process

Please refer to the fact sheet (Get the Facts: The RPP 2026 Call for Proposals) before finalizing your submission.

The proposal (Word or PDF format), including an itemized budget, letters of support, and the Application for Conditional Grant form, must be submitted **by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2026**, to EDC.RPP@gov.ab.ca. Please use the subject line **RPP CFP9 Submission**.

You will receive an email to confirm receipt of your proposal.

Additional Information

Please refer to the "Get the Facts: The RPP 2026 Call for Proposals" document for additional important information.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

Aruna Augustine
Research and Grant Analyst
Research and Policy Branch
Alberta Education and Childcare

Email: EDC.RPP@gov.ab.ca

Phone: 780-427-9757

(For a toll-free call in Alberta, call 310-0000 first.)

1. Impact of Violent Incidents on Teacher Retention and Recruitment

Analyze the correlation between the frequency of classroom aggression reported in the 2025 Aggression and Complexity report and the attrition rates of early career teachers. The research would specifically measure how occupational safety concerns rank against compensation as a primary driver for educators leaving the profession or the province.

2. Quantifying Instructional Time Lost to Behavioural Management

Conduct a time use study to calculate the exact percentage of instructional time teachers in standard classrooms spend managing disruptive behavior rather than teaching curriculum. This data is essential to understand how the inclusion of high behavior needs in general classrooms may impact the mastery of academic content for the majority of students.

3. Long term Remediation Rates of K-3 Literacy Screening

With the implementation of mandatory K-3 screening under Bill 6, research must track whether identification leads to actual mastery of phonics and reading comprehension by Grade 4. This priority focuses on the effectiveness of the interventions provided after screening to ensure that data collection is not mistaken for actual remediation of literacy deficits.

4. Efficacy of Disciplinary Policies on Recidivism

Analyse the current school authority disciplinary matrices to determine if restorative justice models are effectively reducing repeat offenses for violent behaviour. The research would compare schools with strict exclusionary discipline policies against those using restorative practices to see which yields safer overall school environments.

5. Quantifiable Benefits of Mobile Device Restrictions

Following the full implementation of the personal mobile device ban in September 2024, measure the resulting improvements in student cognitive focus and mental well-being. This study would specifically quantify reductions in class cyberbullying, increases in face-to-face social interaction during breaks, and correlated gains in academic attention spans across junior and senior high cohorts.