

Amendments to the Administrative Guidelines for Teachers' Conventions

Administrative Guideline 37.1 to be amended as follows:

37.1 The principle of devoting two **teaching** [school] days each year [to] **for teachers' conventions, at which members may access a variety of professional development activities to improve and maintain their pedagogical and leadership competence,** is reaffirmed.

Administrative Guidelines to be amended to add 37.2 and 37.3 as follows, with renumbering as required:

(NEW) 37.2 Convention Programming

.1 All convention sessions (including keynote presentations) should:

- .a be clearly linked to one or more competencies in the professional practice standards or to the Association's objects, strategic directions and priorities (eg promoting the cause of education in Alberta, improving the working lives of teachers, advising on matters affecting women in/into leadership within public education in Alberta);**
- .b not contravene Association policy; and**
- .c reinforce the honour and dignity of the profession, and model the importance of high-quality, teacher-directed professional development.**

.2 Convention programs should provide ample time and space for teachers to engage in a variety of meaningful learning and reflection activities which promote the development of both individual and collective efficacy.

.3 Convention boards shall reserve *at least* eight (8) time blocks each year for sessions offered by the Association President and Executive Staff Officers.

- .a This total does not include professional development workshops offered by Association instructors or facilitators, which convention boards can schedule at their discretion.**
- .b No more than three (3) sessions should be scheduled concurrently in any one time block.**
- .c In consultation with program area Coordinators and Associate Coordinators, the Association's Convention Factotum will coordinate the scheduling of staff and sessions to these blocks; and will provide convention boards with the session details and speaker assignments by November 1. If the total number of blocks reserved are not needed, the convention lead will assist convention boards with filling the empty block(s).**
- .d Notwithstanding the above, the Association President and Convention Factotum may request additional time be reserved during the convention schedule, from time-to-time.**

.4 Convention boards shall not schedule:

- .a employer-specific sessions that should be scheduled on divisions' non-instructional days as opposed to convention days (eg PowerSchool in-servicing, bus driver training for coaches);**
- .b certification programs that can be easily accessed throughout the year (eg standard or emergency first aid (re)certification);**
- .c 'wellness' sessions that promote pseudoscientific products or procedures (eg aromatherapy, healing crystals);**
- .d financial and retirement planning sessions, unless offered by Association staff or speakers from the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (ATRF) or the Association's financial and retirement planning partner (currently Capital Estate Planning);**
- .e employee benefits sessions, unless offered by Association staff or speakers from the Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan (ASEBP) or other benefit providers identified in specific collective agreements;**
- .f presentations by provincial or federal politicians and officials (eg Ministers, MLAs, ministry staff), unless approved by the Executive Secretary or their designate.**

- .5 Opportunities for members to engage in political activities (eg meeting with MLAs and political officials, participating in marches and rallies) may be scheduled during convention season provided such events are:**
 - .a approved by the Executive Secretary or their designate;**
 - .b organized by a convention's member-locals and not the convention board; and**
 - .c held after the day's convention sessions have ended, ideally at venues other than those where convention sessions are scheduled.**

37.3 Convention Exhibits

- .1 As an element of convention programs, the *majority* of exhibitors should display products, information and services relevant to the work and needs of teachers and school leaders.**
- .2 Health and wellness vendors may be provided with exhibit space**
 - .a as long as their products are supported by the Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan (ASEBP); and**
 - .b any on-site services (eg massage therapy) are provided only by licensed practitioners.**
- .3 Commercial vendors with little or no educational relevance (eg bedding, clothing and jewelry booths) shall be phased out incrementally so none are present at the 2024 teachers' conventions or beyond.**
- .4 Convention boards shall not provide exhibit space to:**
 - .a competitors of the Association's insurance partner (currently Johnson Insurance);**
 - .b competitors of the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (ATRF) or the Association's financial and retirement planning partner (currently Capital Estate Planning);**
 - .c vendors selling or promoting pseudoscientific health or wellness products or procedures (eg spiritual healers, aromatherapy, crystals);**
 - .d products or displays that promote products or interests that are inconsistent with Association policy (eg test preparation services and materials, online assessment banks);**
 - .e organizations with displays that are politically sensitive or controversial in nature**
 - .f political parties, constituency offices or riding associations of provincial and federal politicians;**
 - .g entities seeking to access Association's members for the purposes of signing petitions or advancing political or quasi-political campaigns;**
 - .h establishments that promote activities or rent equipment that is not allowed by the majority of school divisions (e.g. trampoline parks, laser tag, dunk tanks, bouncy castles).**
- .5 Each convention board must provide exhibit space in prominent, high traffic locations to:**
 - .a the Alberta Teachers' Association (for annual displays and Provincial Executive Council campaign materials), *at no cost*;**
 - .b the Association's insurance partner (currently Johnson Insurance);**
 - .c the Association's financial and retirement planning partner (currently Capital Estate Planning);**
 - .d member-locals of the convention association, if requested;**
 - .e specialist councils, if requested;**
 - .f the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (ATRF), if requested;**
 - .g regionals of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA), if requested;**
 - .h the Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan (ASEBP) and other benefit providers identified in specific collective agreements, if requested;**
 - .i the Alberta Assessment Consortium (AAC), if requested;**
 - .j other Association partners (eg CIVIX) as approved by the Executive Secretary or their designate, from time-to-time.**