

From: EDC Deputy Minister <EducationDeputyMinister@gov.ab.ca>

Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 4:59 PM

Subject: Implementation of An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances

I am writing in follow-up to my email on June 28, 2018 in which I reminded you that amendments to Section 45.1 of the *School Act*, which require school authorities to create a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe policy, came into force on April 1, 2018. School authorities had until June 30, 2018 to make their compliant policies available in a prominent location on a publicly accessible website maintained by or on behalf of the school authority. This requirement applies to all public, separate, Francophone, charter and accredited private school operators.

Alberta Education's review of your school authority's website, following the June 30, 2018 deadline and subsequent follow-up by Alberta Education staff with your school authority, reveals that your school authority has posted a policy in a prominent location on your website that, in our opinion, is not compliant with section 45.1 of the *School Act*.

You will receive a subsequent email from SafeCaring@gov.ab.ca shortly that provides detailed feedback on your policy. Upon receipt of this subsequent email, you will have 30 calendar days to post a compliant policy in a prominent location on your school authority's website. The expectation that policies are posted in a prominent location on the school authority's website requires that a link to the policy document(s) is clearly labeled and easily accessible from the school authority's home page.

Failure to comply may result in consequences that can include a Ministerial Order establishing a policy and requiring the posting of the policy, an investigation or inquiry, and/or funding implications. An investigation or inquiry may result in the suspension or cancellation of accreditation, or any other order the Minister deems appropriate.

Alberta Education staff continue to be available to support your school authority in this work and can be reached at SafeCaring@gov.ab.ca. A document outlining the minimum legislated requirements of *An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances* is available on the [Alberta Education website](#) to support your policy work. Additionally, a sample policy that meets legislated requirements is attached. You may also wish to contact the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta at www.aisca.ab.ca who have developed a policy template.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Paul Lamoureux, Executive Director, Field Services, Alberta Education, at SafeCaring@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Curtis Clarke, PhD

Deputy Minister of Education