

Alberta

Population: 1,463,203 (1966).

School enrolment: 372,865.

University enrolment (full-time): 14,749.

Grade system: 1 to 12. Graduation from Grade 12 constitutes matriculation to the University of Alberta in Edmonton, University of Calgary in Calgary, or University of Lethbridge in Lethbridge, where a degree is obtainable after a three-year course of studies. Public junior colleges provide instruction for the first two years leading to a degree and function as community, composite schools.

The school district is the basic unit of administration, though, since 1937, its powers have, to a large extent, been assumed by the newer school divisions, which have combined rural districts and have been joined by villages and towns in almost all cases. Now an even larger unit, the county, is gradually superseding the divisional organization.

Public schools are free to all up to the age of 21, and compulsory from 7 to 15. The school year consists of 200 teaching days beginning September 1.

All subjects are taught in English, but a primary course may be given in French. A board may employ competent persons to give additional courses in a language other than English to children whose parents are willing to pay for it.

Teacher-training is carried on at the faculties of education in the three universities. The provincial Department of Education issues two general types of certificate: (1) Standard (two years of training beyond Grade 12); (2) Professional (three years of training beyond Grade 12). The Standard may apply to elementary or secondary grades, depending on the nature of the training-course taken.

British Columbia

Population: 1,873,674 (1966).

School enrolment: 445,904.

University enrolment (full-time): 23,144.

Grade system: kindergarten and Grades 1 to 12. Graduation from academic Grade 12 constitutes junior matriculation to one of the four universities and their affiliates, and a first degree may be obtained after a four-year course of studies. Graduation from Grade 13 is senior matriculation, and a first degree is obtained after a three-year course.