



## Specializing In Educational Nonsense August 20, 2010

### Intro:

Hi, this is Michael Zwaagstra. A public school in Alberta has decided to implement yet another educational fad. Find out more, on today's Frontier commentary.

### Script:

An Alberta elementary school is taking the concept of specialization to a completely new level.

At this school, students heading into grade 2 will be expected to select a "major" that defines the focus of their education for the next three years. These majors include: the arts, sports, scientific inquiry, and humanitarian/environment.

However, the four specializations arbitrarily chosen by this school appear to have more to do with indoctrinating students in politically correct ideology than promoting academic excellence.

The reality is that most students learn best in a school environment where they receive focused academic instruction in the core academic subjects.

In other words, let science be science and math be math. Students can learn these subjects without having their every fancy and whim catered to by a school system more focused on self-esteem than academic excellence.

Schools should spend less time trying to be at the cutting edge of every educational fad and more time looking at ways to raise academic standards.

I'm Michael Zwaagstra. Join the prairie's only independent think tank next week for more thinking on the Frontier. For more about education, visit our website, at [fcpp.org](http://fcpp.org).

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