

Budget message from Chief Superintendent

February 24, 2015

Dear Staff,

As we embark on the budgeting process for 2015-16, it's important for you to know that the work we do every day to support student success is great and we should be very proud of it.

You each hold an important role at the CBE, whether you work in the classroom or in support of the classroom. Our strong student results are evidence of the excellent work that is being done.

As you may recall, I started this school year by saying I wanted us to focus on three things:

- Advancing the learning agenda
- Creating a new balance between implementation and innovation
- Working collaboratively to solve complex problems in new ways because that is our greatest strength

These will remain our focus in the coming weeks when the Province of Alberta releases its 2015-16 budget.

While we do not know what this budget will bring, we realize that it will have implications for our work of supporting student learning across the system. We will continue to ensure that the CBE's 2015-16 budget follows our core values:

- Students come first
- Learning is our central purpose
- Public education serves the common good

Although our budget might change, our focus and values will not.

We've made it through challenges before, and we will make it through them again. We will do so by working collaboratively to support student success.

To that end, work is already underway. System leaders are actively engaging in conversations about options and strategies to meet the possible budget challenges. The Province of Alberta announced [spending control measures](#) earlier this year. Following that direction, CBE directors have been [asked to minimize](#) service unit and area spending through the end of our budget year. The Board of Trustees is [advocating provincially](#) with the Education Minister and MLAs to help the Province understand how changes in funding will affect student learning. It is

also meeting with school councils at area meetings to hear what parents have to say.

We ask that you be as flexible and accommodating as possible as we move through this process. We do not have clear information as to the timing of the budget announcement. There is also the distinct possibility that an election could be called after the budget is tabled, which will impact the timing of the budget. We are committed to keeping you informed as we receive more facts.

I encourage you to share your thoughts about budget challenges and opportunities with us. Please visit the [budget feedback](#) form on our website to ensure your comments are seen by our budget team. Also, you can stay up-to-date with budget information on our [budget website](#).

Thank you for your dedication to your job and our students.

David Stevenson
Chief Superintendent of Schools
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