

news release

Initial estimates show CBE facing funding gap

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Media Relations
403-819-2317

mediarelations@cbe.ab.ca

CALGARY—The Alberta government’s March 6 provincial budget means the Calgary Board of Education will be underfunded for the fourth consecutive year.

The CBE is grateful that the Province increased funding by three per cent to address enrolment growth, but other rising costs were not covered. This includes operating expenses such as inflation, the movement of staff covered by collective agreements through salary grids and other costs.

Administration is initially estimating this could result in as much as a \$31 million funding gap and a decline in per-student funding for the fourth consecutive year in 2014-15.

“Funding is not keeping pace with costs and this presents challenges for us again this year,” Sheila Taylor, chair of the CBE Board of Trustees, says. “The CBE is feeling particular strain because this is the fourth consecutive year of underfunding.”

Taylor says there is still much work to do to understand what changes and adjustments will have to be made to balance the budget.

“We want to sustain the excellent outcomes that our students continue to achieve,” says Taylor.

Over the next several weeks, CBE administration will consider all options as it prepares its budget assumptions for presentation to the Board of Trustees in April.

“All the usual portfolios that are discussed at budget time will be reviewed, including fees, transportation, levels of service and allocations to schools,” says Brad Grundy, chief financial officer and corporate treasurer. “We will also look at all our internal projects and initiatives that are underway or planned, in order to look at the potential for delaying or reducing expenses.”

More information about the CBE budget can be found online. Additionally, the CBE welcomes public comments regarding the budget at budget feedback.

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