



Provincial Budget 2024-25

Not keeping pace with growth and rising costs

Budget 2024-25 does not provide the funding necessary for a growing school district. The CBE will receive an increase to provincial funding to account for increased enrolment. However, the provincial budget does not address inflation and the real cost of supporting students with increasingly complex learning needs. In its 2024-27 fiscal plan, government has committed to a reduced level of funding for the next few years.

Funding enrolment growth without addressing inflationary pressures results in growing class sizes and impacts the services and supports we offer to families.



Per Student Funding Remains Below 2017-18 Levels

Per-student funding is below 2017-18 funding and is expected to remain flat or decline for the next few years. Alberta has the lowest per-student operational funding in Canada.



Enrolment is Surging

Student enrolment has increased by 7,000 students year-over-year. New students are being enrolled every day. In fact, we expect an additional 4,000 students will be registered during the 2023-24 school year. New students enrolled throughout the school year are not fully funded. Looking ahead to the 2024-25 school year, we are projecting to enrol another 5,000 students.



Complexity in the Classroom is Increasing

As of March 2024, over 140,000 students are enrolled at the CBE. This includes 2,000+ additional students who have registered since Sept. 30. Of those, more than 40,000 students are English as Additional Language (EAL) learners, and 25,000 students have special learning needs. Base funding does not provide enough funding to ensure these students have access to the supports they need to be successful in their learning.



The Real Costs of School Operations are Not Fully Funded

Base funding rates did not increase. This means funding falls short of the actual cost of items like utilities, maintenance, custodial services, and insurance. Inflationary pressures mean these costs, along with staff costs, continue to rise. A dollar today buys much less than a dollar did in 2017-18.



More Learning Spaces are Urgently Required

In spring 2023, CBE asked the government to fund six new schools. However, only one school received construction funding. In March 2024, the Board approved its 2025-28 Capital Plan, requesting an additional 21 new schools to address rapid enrolment growth. To relieve pressure, the CBE also asked for 68 new modular classrooms. Only 12 of those requests have been granted. Given timing of approval, these classrooms may not be ready for September. Currently, more than 65 schools are operating at 100 per cent utilization or higher. When a school reaches capacity, new registrations are capped and students who live in the community must be overflowed to another school. More than 30 of those schools are currently in overflow.

Contact us

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– Board of Trustees