

EDUCATION FUNDING IN ALBERTA

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12

2016/2017 School Year



Alberta 

Alberta's Education System

This booklet is an overview of funding provided by the Government of Alberta for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education. Funding is provided for children as young as 2 ½ years old and students up to and including age 19.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://education.alberta.ca>.

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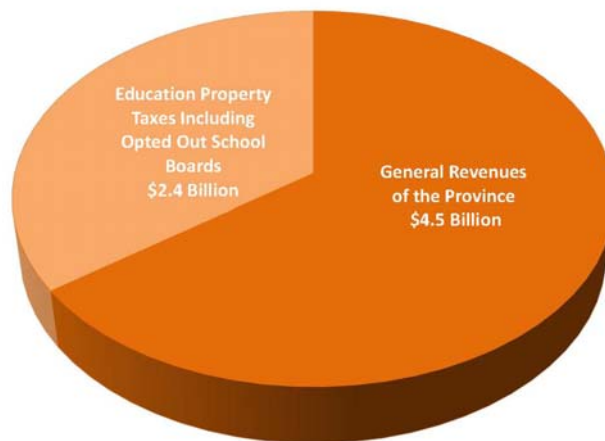
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How does Alberta fund the education system?

Total operational funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) comes from two sources:

- General Government Revenues – \$4.5 billion
- Education Property Taxes (including opted-out boards) – \$2.4 billion

Budget 2016 Operating Support to School Boards \$6.9 Billion



Can I direct my education property taxes to a private school?

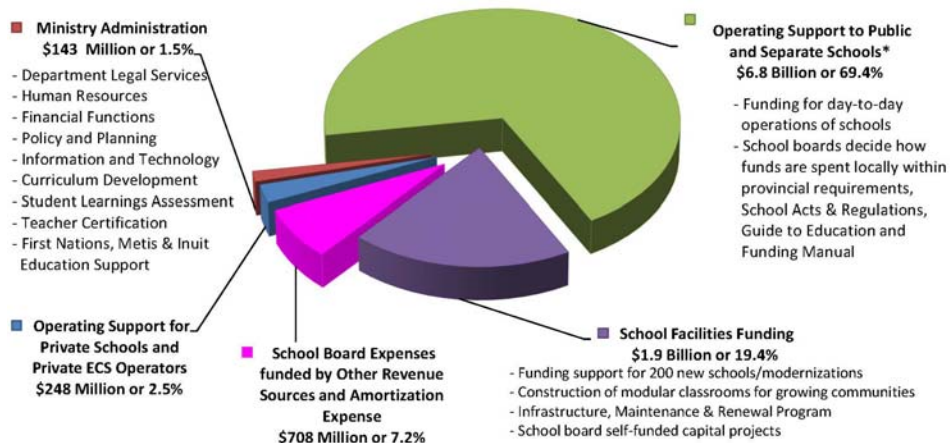
No. By Alberta law, money collected through education property taxes can only be used to fund the public education system, which includes public and separate schools. Private school funding comes from three sources: provincial general revenues, tuition or instruction fees paid by parents, and private fundraising. Common questions and answers about education property taxes can be found on Alberta Education's website at:

<http://education.alberta.ca/education-property-tax/faq>

How much funding is available?

Budget 2016 maintains government's commitment to provide stable funding for K-12 education. Budget 2016 includes \$7.9 billion in consolidated operating expense and \$1.9 billion in consolidated capital investment, for a combined total of approximately \$9.8 billion. Government will spend \$45 million each day that students are in school.

Alberta Education Consolidated Budget Breakdown - \$9.8 Billion **



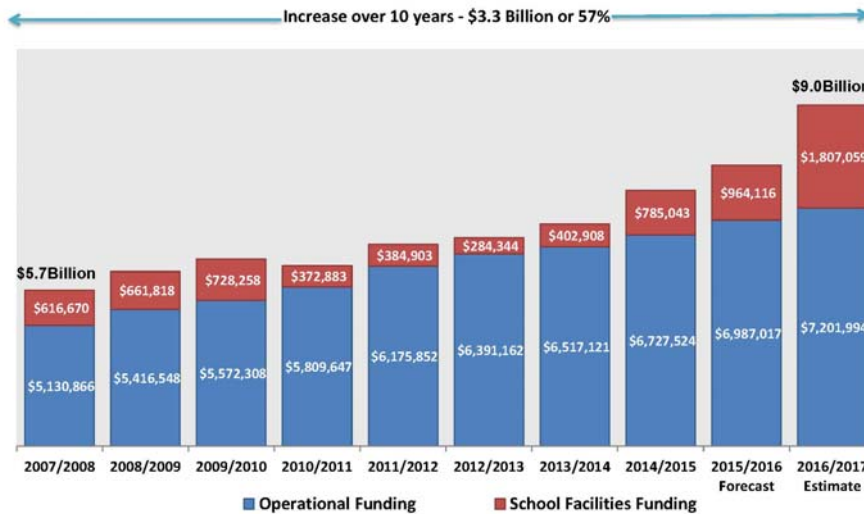
* Includes \$239 Million in opted-out school board education property taxes

** Includes estimated school board expenses funded by other revenue sources and board self-funded capital projects

Increased investment in K-12 education

Since the 2007/2008 fiscal year, government funding for K-12 education has increased from \$5.7 billion to \$9.0 billion in 2016/2017. This is an increase of 57 per cent.

Total Support to K-12 Education System



*Non-consolidated expenses do not include estimated school board expenses funded by other revenue sources.
Operational funding includes education property taxes for opted-out school boards.*

Who receives support?

Alberta Education provides funding to school authorities. When it comes to selecting a school, parents and students can choose from a wide range of options. They can select from public, separate, Francophone, private and charter schools. They can also access unique and innovative programs, including home education, online/virtual schools, outreach programs and alternative programs.

School Type	2016/2017 Student Projection ECS-12	% of Student Population
Public School System (includes: Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter)	607,783	95%
Private School System (private schools and private early childhood service operators)	28,915	5%
Total Funded Students	636,698	100%

Estimates of Full Time Equivalent (FTE, ECS = 0.5 FTEs) as of March 2016

Through Budget 2016:

- Operating support for school boards will reach over \$6.9 billion. This is an increase of \$209 million or 3.1 per cent from last year.
- Private schools and private early childhood services (ECS) operators will receive \$248 million for the 2016/2017 fiscal year.
- The government portion of the current services contributions to the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund is \$408 million for the 2016/2017 fiscal year. In addition, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance will contribute \$475.5 million for the cost of the pre-1992 teachers' pension liability. Total government support to teachers' pensions will be \$883.5 million in 2016/2017.

Alberta's funding framework for K-12 education

The funding framework for K-12 education in Alberta is based on three pillars: funding, flexibility and accountability.

PILLARS OF THE FUNDING FRAMEWORK

Funding

- The framework consists of approximately 25 different grants.
- The framework distributes funding to school authorities in a consistent and equitable manner.

Flexibility

- 98 per cent of funding is flexible, meaning school authorities have discretion to use these funds to meet the needs of their students.
- Only a few of the grants are “targeted” and must be used for the purpose for which they were provided.

Accountability*

- Measuring achievement and improvement.
- Using results to improve programs for students.
- Transparency for how school boards use their financial resources.

*To learn more about accountability in Alberta's education system, please refer to Education's website at: [http:// education.alberta.ca/accountability-pillar/about-the-pillar](http://education.alberta.ca/accountability-pillar/about-the-pillar)

How can funding be used?

The majority of funding provided has no restrictions on its use. While school authorities have the flexibility to use public funds to best meet the needs of their students, they must ensure that they:

- provide access to education programs for their students;
- follow Alberta Programs of Study (curriculum);
- employ certificated teachers;
- provide students with the required hours of instruction each school year;
- provide the Minister of Education with audited financial statements; and
- provide transportation services for students.

How are funds distributed?

Funding for K-12 education in Alberta is provided primarily on a per-student basis. The funding framework allocates funding to school authorities based on the demographic and geographic environment in which services are delivered to students.

- **Demographic** – the number and type of students served.
- **Geographic** – area of the province in which the students are being served.

How are funds distributed? - continued

The funding framework provides five main categories of funding:

- A. Base funding
- B. Differential funding
- C. Targeted funding
- D. Other Provincial Support
- E. Capital funding (not provided to private or charter schools)

A. Base Funding

Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 9 students are funded on a per-student basis. Grades 10 to 12 students are funded based on the number of high school credits taken. Base funding represents the largest component of funding within the funding framework for instructional costs, such as teacher salaries and classroom materials.

B. Additional Funding for Differential Factors

Differential funding is provided in addition to base funding and addresses the unique characteristics and circumstances of each school authority. A selection of the significant differential grants follows. Please refer to Page 14 for per-student rates.

The complete grant rate list is outlined in the *2016/2017 Funding Manual For School Authorities* on Education's website at <http://education.alberta.ca/funding-framework-for-k-12/funding-manual>

1. Severe Disabilities Funding— Kindergarten

Also known as program unit funding, this funding supports programs for young children in Kindergarten and pre-school programs who have been assessed as having severe disabilities.

2. English as a Second Language (ESL)

English language learners are children/students who are acquiring English as a second or additional language. These children/students come from homes where the primary spoken language is not English. Funding is provided to support program planning and instructional supports for English language learners to achieve grade level learning expectations and their academic learning potential.

3. Francisation Funding

This funding is provided to Francophone Regional Authorities and provides targeted instructional support for eligible children/students to assist them in developing French language competencies that will allow them to fully integrate socially, academically and culturally into the community and into Canadian society as a Francophone.

4. First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Funding

This funding is provided based on the number of self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

5. Socio-Economic Status (SES) Funding

This funding is based on a Statistics Canada index to identify the proportion of a school jurisdiction's student population considered to be disadvantaged.

6. Northern Allowance Funding

This funding is provided to school authorities in Alberta's north to offset the higher cost of operations. Funding is based on geographical location: the further north the school is located, the higher the per-student rate.

7. Equity of Opportunity Funding

Funding is provided through three components to support equitable access to education programs for students. A per-student allocation provides support for all funded students; a distance funding component recognizes the costs of providing services for rural students who attend schools that are located at greater distances from major service centres; and a low student density funding component recognizes the costs of providing services for students who attend schools in sparsely populated, remote rural communities.

8. Inclusive Education Funding

This grant provides funding for supports and services that benefit all students in an inclusive education system, as well as additional supports that students require to help them achieve success. Part of the funding is provided through differential modifiers to address diversity factors that vary among boards.

9. Plant Operations and Maintenance (POM) Funding

This funding is provided for the daily upkeep and maintenance of school buildings. It addresses the costs associated with lighting, heating and ventilation, grounds-keeping, cleaning and routine maintenance procedures, for example.

10. Transportation Funding

This funding helps to address the costs of providing transportation services throughout the province. Formulas used to determine this funding are based on the area of the province in which students are being served.

C. Targeted Funding

Targeted funding is in addition to base and differential funding and is provided for specific provincial initiatives. This funding must be used for the initiative it was intended.

1. Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD)

Regional Collaborative Service Delivery is intended to provide a regional model for support to schools and community partners to meet the needs of children and youth (ECS to Grade 12), as well as to families who have children and youth with complex needs (birth to age 20). It is also intended to strengthen the capacity of service providers to collaboratively respond to those needs. This includes initiatives such as funding targeted to expand RCSD to children, youth and families living in First Nations communities.

2. High-Speed Networking Services Funding

This funding assists school authorities with the basic connectivity costs to access internet in schools.

3. Class Size Funding

- School boards may use class size funding to hire or retain certificated teachers for any grade level.
- Class size funding is distributed as a per-student grant based on Kindergarten to Grade 3 enrolments.
- Since its inception in 2004, \$2.7 billion has been invested into class size funding. In the 2016/2017 school year, total class size funding will be \$287 million—an increase of \$16 million or 2.1 per cent.
- A class size rate is also included in the funding for specific Career and Technology Studies courses in high school. This accommodates the need for smaller classes to enhance safety and student learning environments and to meet post-secondary trades training requirements under the revised Career and Technology Studies Programs of Study.

4. Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education

Alberta's Approach to First Nations includes the Building Collaboration and Capacity in Education (BCCE) Grant Program. The BCCE program is to support opportunities for First Nations students to receive culturally responsive and meaningful education programs and services through enhanced collaboration and coordination among education stakeholders.

D. Other Provincial Support

Is provided in addition to other funding and covers such areas as institutional programs, debt retirement and the Fort McMurray allowance.

1. Education Program in an Institution (EPI)

Funding is provided for education programs for resident students of the government who reside in an institution or group home, or day students who attend an EPI that is approved for day students.

2. Fort McMurray Allowance

This living allowance is only provided to school jurisdictions who have employees that live and work in the vicinity of Fort McMurray. The amount of the monthly allowance will be set annually by Treasury Board and Finance at the beginning of the fiscal year and is subject to change.

E. Capital Funding

1. School Facilities Funding

This funding is provided only to public school boards to build new or replacement schools, modernize or renovate existing school facilities, construct modular classrooms or relocate existing portables.

2. Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal Funding

This funding is provided to maintain safe and healthy school facilities. It is intended to improve and prolong the life of school buildings and to upgrade school facilities in general, including the replacement of roofs; boilers and mechanical systems; water and sewer lines; and windows and doors. This funding may also be used to improve the energy efficiency of schools.

3. School Capital Plan

In 2016/2017, school capital funding reaches \$1.8 billion to support the construction of new schools, modernization of existing buildings, modular projects and the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal program. This includes \$1.6 billion in funding to support the government's commitment to build 200 school projects, \$148 million for Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal and the Maintenance and Renewal program for P3 schools, and \$50 million to support the annual modular classroom program.

Funding Rates for the 2016/2017 School Year

School Jurisdiction Funding Rates	Public School System	Private School System
For the 2016/2017 school year, funding rates remain the same as for the 2015/2016 school year.		
Base Instruction Funding		
ECS (per funded child)		
ECS Base Instruction Rate	\$3,339.90	\$3,339.90
ECS Class Size Base Rate	<u>\$ 760.84</u>	<u>not eligible</u>
ECS Basic Child Grant	\$4,100.74	\$3,339.90
Grades 1 to 3 (per funded student)		
Grades 1 to 3 Base Instruction Rate	\$6,679.79	\$4,675.86
Grades 1 to 3 Class Size Base Rate	<u>\$1,521.68</u>	<u>not eligible</u>
Grades 1 to 3 Basic Student Grant	\$8,201.47	\$4,675.86
Grades 4 to 6 Base Instruction Rate (per funded student)	\$6,679.79	\$4,675.86
Grades 7 to 9 Base Instruction Rate (per funded student)	\$6,679.79	\$4,675.86
Grades 10 to 12 (per CEU to a maximum of 60 CEUs per year per funded student)		
See section 9.1, CEU Funding Tiers list		
Tier 1 CEU Rate	\$190.85	\$133.59
Tier 2 CEU Rate (includes \$12.83 per CEU Class Size rate)	\$203.68	not eligible
Tier 3 CEU Rate (includes \$36.18 per CEU Class Size rate)	\$227.03	not eligible
Tier 4 CEU Rate (Work Experience and Special Projects)	\$114.50	\$80.16
Home Education	\$1,670.81	\$1,670.81
Differential Funding		
Equity of Opportunity	per formula	\$70.70
Inclusive Education	per formula	not eligible
Severe disabilities – Kindergarten (Program Unit Funding)	\$25,051.20	\$25,051.20
Mild/Moderate Disabilities – Kindergarten (see Inclusive Education)	not applicable	\$2,486.76
First Nation Métis and Inuit Education	\$1,178.10	\$824.67
English as a Second Language and Francisation	\$1,178.10	\$824.67
Northern Allowance		
- Lower Zone – schools between 55 th and 56 th parallels	\$471.24	\$329.87
- Intermediate Zone – schools between 56 th and 57 th parallels	\$705.84	\$494.09
- Upper Zone – schools north of 57 th parallel	\$1,060.80	\$742.56
Plant Operations and Maintenance		
- Kindergarten to grade 6	\$795.30	\$556.71**
- Grades 7 to 9	\$751.18	\$525.83**
- Grades 10 to 12	\$755.38	\$528.77**
Outreach (per program)	\$62,972.76	not eligible
Transportation	See Funding Manual	not eligible
Francophone Equivalency Access (Francophone Boards only)	\$624.24	not eligible
Socio-Economic Status	\$471.24	not eligible
Small Schools by Necessity	See Funding Manual	not eligible
Targeted Funding		
SuperNet Service – pre approved site	\$800.00	\$560.00
Regional Collaborative Service Delivery	per formula	per formula
Capital Funding		
School Construction and Modernization	per approved project	not eligible
Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal	See Funding Manual	not eligible

*All rates are per-student except where noted. Refer to Section 8 of the 2016/2017 Funding Manual for a complete list of funding rates and other allocations provided.

**Plant Operations and Maintenance rates are adjusted according to year 3 of a 3 year phase-in of level 2 rates.

Online Resources

Alberta Education Website

<http://education.alberta.ca>

2016/2017 Funding Manual for School Authorities

<http://education.alberta.ca/funding-framework-for-k-12/>

Alberta Education Business Plan

<http://education.alberta.ca/business-plans/overview/>

The Guide to Education

<http://education.alberta.ca/guide-to-education/>

For more information
call Alberta Education at
780-427-2055
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or visit **www.education.alberta.ca**