

November 2011

Principals are deciding how the funding will be spent because they know their school communities best.

Principals are deciding how additional funding from the provincial government will benefit their schools.

During her campaign for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party, Alison Redford promised to put \$107 million back into education in Alberta. Within two weeks of winning the leadership, Premier Redford and new Minister of Education, Thomas Lukaszuk, announced that the money was secured.

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) portion of the additional funding is \$19.2 million. During a public meeting on Oct. 18, the CBE's Board of Trustees directed the one-time funding to schools so principals, who know their school communities better than anyone, can decide how to spend the money.

The CBE money comes from Alberta Education in two buckets. Part is earmarked for Alberta Initiative for School Improvement or "AIS" projects. These projects are designed to improve our teaching across the system. The additional \$4.2 million of AISI funding equals \$43.50 per student. This money will be directed to schools for their personalized learning initiatives.

The rest of the additional funding for the CBE totals \$15 million or \$155.30 per student. Principals

can use this money to make a difference in classrooms.

In general, Alberta Education has clear expectations for how the money is used. Minister Lukaszuk has stated that the additional funding be "felt by" students and teachers. In other words, the funding is to be spent on people. This expectation is consistent with the feedback the CBE received to an online survey.

The CBE asked people to rate priorities for additional funding. Between Oct. 4 and 11, more than 6,100 responded to the survey. Teachers and support for teachers topped the list.

School principals have been asked to submit their spending plans for the additional funding by Nov. 1. The short deadline means the one-time money will get to students and classrooms quickly.

Principals will connect with their school council chairs to explain the funding for their schools and the spending plans. Given the quick turnaround, it is hard to consult with the community again. That is part of the reason why the decision-making was delegated to principals. They know their schools. The spending plans will be a response to ongoing conversations about what is important in each school.

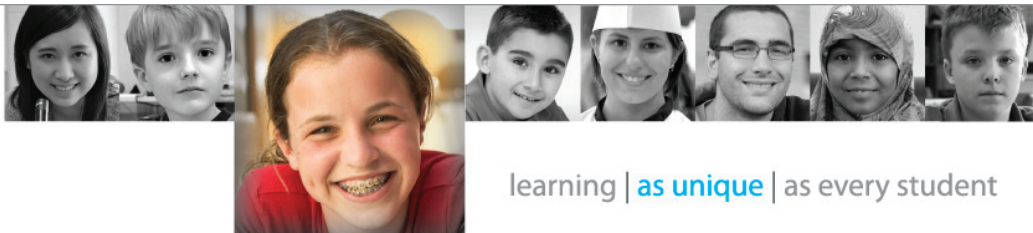
## Public sets priorities

More than 6,100 completed an online survey to rank CBE priorities for additional funding from the provincial government. Here are the results in order of importance.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1   Teachers in schools                     | 6   Support for English-language learners |
| 2   Support for teachers                    | 7   Professional development for teachers |
| 3   Support for students with special needs | 8   Reducing student fees                 |
| 4   School maintenance and repair           | 9   Replenish CBE reserves                |
| 5   Technology for students                 | 10   New schools                          |

In addition to these choices, people could write in a response they thought was missing. Many of the 900 written responses emphasized the choices above. The most common write-in response was smaller class sizes, with 138 mentions. Almost half of the people who answered the survey described themselves as parents with school-age children. About 40 per cent described themselves as CBE employees. For the most part, parents and CBE employees agreed on the priorities.





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## CBE students are globally connected

### Online fee payment option now available

The Calgary Board of Education is now offering an online payment option for the payment of selected school fees. This pilot project will allow you to pay noon supervision, incidental activity and Instructional Supplies and Materials (ISM) fees using our online application. Depending on the results of the pilot, other fees will be added. Payments can be made by credit card and/or debit card (debit option coming soon) and your school will be notified of the payment by 7 a.m. the next day. For more information, please visit [cbe.ab.ca](http://cbe.ab.ca).

In November, we have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all the ways in which CBE students are globally engaged and connected.

CBE students attend schools inside the city limits, but once they get to class, they experience the world.

Some students travel the world through language, with 38,000 CBE students engaged in second language learning.

Some students travel the world daily by interacting with international students in their own classes. A record 640 international students are enrolled in CBE schools this fall.

Some students form long-distance relationships with students from abroad because their schools are twinned. That twinning and the personal contacts enrich their experience.

CBE students also learn much from their teachers who participate in teacher exchanges around the world and bring international teachers into their classrooms – both face to face and through the use of innovative technology.

And some of the students literally travel the world.

Last year, hundreds of students benefited from international travel through various high-school programs. They visited cities in Europe and China.

But whatever their experience, all CBE students learn about becoming responsible citizens, because that is a key goal for the CBE. Increasingly, learning to be a citizen means learning to be a global citizen and why that's important.

Providing broad access to global learning experiences is an important part of how we personalize learning. The CBE's diverse international programs have, at their heart, the understanding that learning must be as unique as every student.

The CBE's range of programs recognize that communities in Calgary value the study of language and culture and see it as a necessity in today's globalized world. To that end, CBE schools are participating in a wide range of school-based programs and activities Nov. 14 to 18 to celebrate International Education Week. I invite you to visit your children's schools and see how they are globally connected this year.

*Naomi Johnson*  
Chief Superintendent of Schools

### School nutrition improves for 2012

CBE schools have worked very hard over the last three years to improve nutrition in schools. As a school system, we want to continually create learning environments that reinforce the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

The previous regulation has now been updated and will support schools in making even more positive changes to the food items sold or served by CBE staff to CBE students.

The most visible change to our regulation is that 100 per cent of foods or beverages sold or served by CBE staff and contracted food service providers to CBE students will come from the "Choose Most Often" or "Choose Sometimes" categories in our schools. No items will be available from the "Choose Least Often" category which some call "junk food".

For more information about these categories, visit <http://www.healthyalberta.com/HealthyEating/ANGCY.htm>. "Frequently Asked Questions" are provided on the CBE website.

#### CBE policy will have:

##### Elementary Schools

100 per cent from the "Choose Most Often"

##### Junior High Schools/Middle Schools

Minimum 60 per cent from the "Choose Most Often"; maximum 40 per cent "Choose Sometimes"

##### Senior High Schools

Minimum 50 per cent from the "Choose Most Often"; maximum 50 per cent "Choose Sometimes"