

# news release

## Community helps set Calgary Board of Education priorities for additional funding

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CALGARY—More than 6,100 people ranked Calgary Board of Education priorities for additional funding from the provincial government.

People who completed the survey were asked to rate the importance of 10 priorities. The list of priorities came from school principals and budget-related issues for the 2011-12 school year. In addition, people were invited to add priorities they thought were missing.

Here is a summary of how people ranked the priorities. The numbers shown indicate the number of people who rated each priority and the weighted average of the scores.

On a 10-point scale, people were asked to rate their highest priority “one.” This means that the *lower* the weighted average, the *higher* the priority.

Ranked Priorities	Responses	Weighted Average
Teachers in schools	6,045	3.26
Support for teachers	5,975	3.80
Support for students with special needs	5,975	4.08
School maintenance and repair	5,921	4.73
Technology for students	5,898	4.81
Support for English-language learners	5,882	4.91
Professional development for teachers	5,898	5.54
Reducing student fees	5,891	5.87
Replenish CBE reserves	5,819	6.08
New schools	5,903	6.28

There were more than 900 written responses, many of which repeated the choices above. The most common response was smaller class sizes, with 138 mentions. Hiring teachers and library resources were mentioned 45 and 60 times respectively.

learning | as unique | as every student



**Calgary Board  
of Education**

People described themselves as follows:

- 46.3 per cent are parents with school-age children
- 4.2 per cent are CBE students
- 38.4 per cent are CBE employees based in schools
- 3.2 per cent are CBE employees not based on schools
- 8.0 per cent are Calgarians with an interest in public education

Parents and CBE employees largely agree on the priorities, ranking most of the 10 in the same order.

The survey will be used by the CBE to help determine how additional funding will be allocated as soon as it is available. The survey process will help continually improve how the CBE engages the community to inform decisions.

“The CBE does not know what its portion of the \$107 million will be,” says Naomi Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools. “When the amount is known, Administration is responsible for building the plan for how it will benefit students immediately, which must be approved by the Board of Trustees.”

The CBE initiated an online survey after Alison Redford won the leadership of the Alberta PC Party. During her campaign, Redford promised to restore \$107 million to education funding. Premier Redford and newly-appointed Education Minister Thomas Lukaszuk announced Wednesday that the promise is being kept and that funding will come as soon as “practicable.”

The survey was open from Oct. 4 to 11. It is the second survey of its kind the CBE has conducted in 2011. The previous survey was about budget and generated 1,455 responses.

Johnson says, “We are grateful to the thousands of people who took time to help us understand what matters most to them in public education.”

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