



Provincial Funding

Not keeping pace with growth and rising costs

Without a substantial increase in funding, class sizes will continue to grow, and students may not have what they need to learn. **At a minimum, the government needs to increase funding to a level equal to the Canadian average.**

If an additional **\$1 billion** was injected into public education in Alberta today, CBE would receive an increase of **\$180 million**. An injection of that size would positively impact average class size and the CBE's ability to support all students, especially students with complex needs.

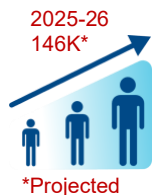
For the 2025-26 school year, CBE will be receiving an additional **\$55 million**. CBE will be challenged next year to maintain a similar level of supports and services. We continue to prioritize programs and services that support the needs of students with the funding we receive.

Per Student Funding Remains Flat



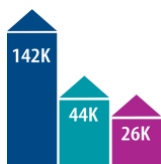
Alberta has one of the lowest per-student operational funding in Canada. Between 2018-19 and 2023-24, the CBE's funding per student has remained relatively constant (based on audited financials). Over the same period, inflation has eroded the CBE's purchasing power of this funding by more than 20 per cent. While Budget 2025-26 provides an increase to per-student funding, it does not keep pace with rising costs and inflation.

Almost 80 per cent of CBE's costs are directly related to employing people. As the average cost of labour rises, the funding for 100 teachers in 2018-19 can only fund 92 teachers in 2024-25.



Enrolment is Surging

Over the past three years, overall enrolment has increased by 17,000 students. Another 3,700+ students are expected to enrolment for the 2025-26 school year – bringing CBE's total enrolment to more than 146,000+ and climbing. Students enrolled after the end of September each year are not fully funded.



Complexity in the Classroom is Increasing

As of the end of September 2024, over 142,000+ students were enrolled at the CBE. Of those, more than 44,000 students are English as Additional Language (EAL) learners, and 26,000 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 have not increased in recent years. This means funding fall shorts of the actual cost of items like utilities, maintenance, custodial services, and insurance. School districts need to redirect dollars, often from educational grants, to fund operating and maintenance costs.



The Funding Model Must Provide for Adequate Funding

Starting in 2025-26, the funding model has changed from a 3-year to a 2-year weighted moving average. Any funding model must be based on adequate overall funding per student. No framework, on its own, can alleviate underfunding. [Read the Board's letter to the Minister](#) on the adequacy of provincial funding for public education and CBE's input on the model.