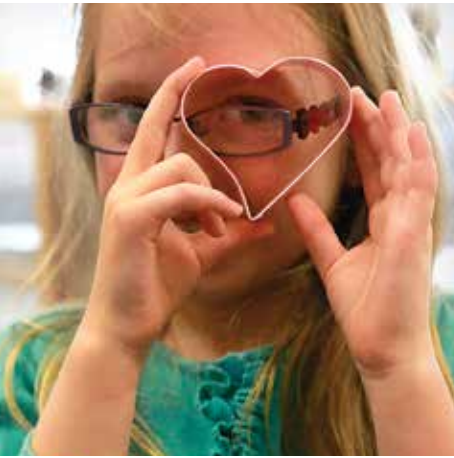


Fall, 2018

Public Education Serves the Common Good



The Calgary Board of Education appreciates the provincial focus on public education, and in particular, the continued funding of student enrolment.

Despite this focus, provincial education funding has not been sufficient to maintain service levels from year to year since 2009.

For many years, the CBE has protected classrooms by continuing to reduce non-school based spending. For example in 2017-18, all non-school based budgets were reduced by 3.7%, followed by a 3-10% cut for 2018-19. This is in addition to the 10%+ cut in 2013-14. This has significantly impacted the supports that we provide to schools and takes time away from school-based administration that could be better directed towards teaching and learning.



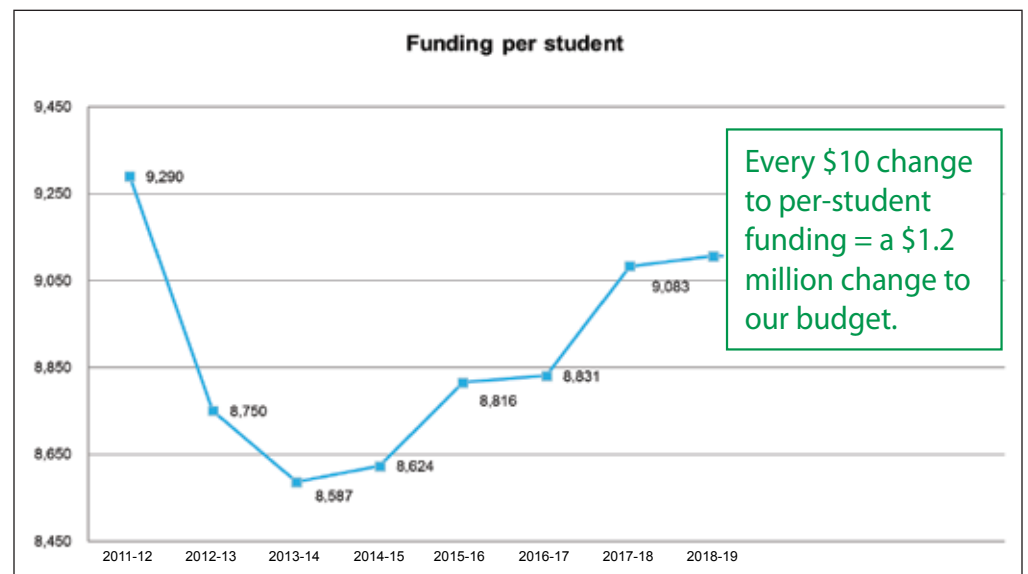
A financial review conducted by Alberta Education (released April 2018) concluded that the CBE's spending is comparable to the other three metro school boards and did not contain any recommendations for where further efficiencies could be found.

Underfunded or unfunded costs still have to be paid. This has an impact on resources and supports available to schools.



Per-student funding

If the province continues to freeze per-student allocations, the CBE anticipates a \$21 M shortfall in the 2019-20 school year from what is needed to maintain current service levels.



* The increase in 2015-16 can be attributed to the 2 per cent rise in teacher salaries, and a 1 per cent lump sum payment.

* The increase in 2017-18 is due to the Classroom Improvement and an Act to Reduce School Fees funding.

Investing in Students

From 2015-16 to 2018-19 the province has benefitted students through:

Funding for student growth

The CBE has grown by 6,434 students (equivalent to almost 11 elementary schools) over the past three years and the government has provided increases to the total education budget by funding every student.

The Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF)

The government has provided funds to be spent directly on improving classroom conditions in 2017-18 and continued the program in 2018-19.

Funding the teacher salary increase

After three years of 0% increases, the government funded the provincially negotiated salary increase for teachers of 2% plus a 1% lump sum in 2015-16.



Funding shortfalls arise from:

Adequate supports for students

Underfunded | \$80 M/yr

CBE teachers have identified that classrooms are becoming increasingly complex.

- Staff are required to provide support for a wide range of learning, behavioural, physical and mental health needs. The CBE allocates far more to support these students than is received.
- In 2013-14, the government reduced the funding support for ELL students from seven years to five. The CBE funds seven years to establish a foundation in academic English.
- The benefits of full-day kindergarten for at-risk students are widely known. The CBE funds programs in 16 schools but the program is needed in 11 more schools. Full-day kindergarten is currently funded through reserves. This is not sustainable.
- Hundreds of refugee students arrive throughout the year, many of whom have complex learning needs. No provincial funding is provided for students arriving after Sept. 30.
- An independent review found transportation for students with complex needs costs double what we receive in provincial funding. This inadequacy in funding has contributed to the transportation challenges facing the CBE.

Salary grid movement

Underfunded | \$15 M/yr

In a growing system, we continue to hire new school-based staff. While salary grids are frozen, as employees gain more experience, they automatically move to a higher pay level until they reach the maximum.

Inflationary costs

Inflation in Calgary has risen almost 5% since 2015. Examples of cost increases include rising utility, fuel, insurance costs, carbon levy, rising software costs due to a weaker Canadian dollar, transportation contracts.

Investing in the Learning Environment

From 2015-16 to 2018-19 the province has benefitted students through:

28 new schools, 5 modernizations and 45 modular classrooms

The government has fulfilled all of its capital project commitments and has continued to announce new schools.

Energy efficiency grants

The province has provided grants to gain further energy efficiencies within the CBE. We are one of the largest solar power generators in the City of Calgary with 22 sites; nine additional sites are currently under development.

Funding shortfalls arise from:

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) Underfunded | \$20 - \$70 M

The CBE has 134 schools that are over 50 years old. The province estimates the CBE's deferred maintenance is \$162 million for immediate needs (e.g., aging roofs and boilers). This need continues to grow every year.

Over the past five years, the CBE has received about \$33M per year in IMR funding. The industry standard is between 1-2% of replacement value. Current IMR funding represents about 0.68%. To align with industry standards, the CBE should be receiving between \$52-\$104M per year based on a total replacement value of our infrastructure.

In addition, during the 2017-18 school year the CBE spent nearly \$13M more than what was provided by Alberta Education for the daily operation and maintenance of our schools (plant operations and maintenance).

Costs of new schools and modernizations Unfunded | \$16+ M

New schools are welcomed by our communities but there are additional costs not covered by the province.

- Schools don't come with the furnishings, equipment and learning materials required to meet the demands of a modern program of studies. Commissioning costs have been estimated at about \$23 M for 27 new schools and modernizations.
- Only student enrolment is funded, not buildings. When new schools are opened the CBE must absorb the increased operating costs, estimated at over \$11 million. The 5 new schools and 2 approved for design are anticipated to further increase annual operating costs by \$5.2 million.

New capital projects

The CBE continues to grow by more than 2,000 students per year. The province would need to build three new schools and complete three modernization projects every year to keep up with the pace of growth.

Reserves

CBE reserves are low as a percentage of revenue. Alberta Education guidance is that district reserves should be between 1-5 per cent of expenditures. CBE is at the lower end of this range.



Investing in our Communities

From 2015-16 to 2018-19 the province has benefitted students through:



Eliminating the Instructional, Supplies and Materials (ISM) fee

The government has provided funding to replace the \$15/kindergarten student, \$30/Gr. 1-6 student, \$137/Gr. 7-9 student and \$152/Gr. 10-12 student ISM fee. The funding is based on 2015-16 student enrolment.

Eliminating the transportation fees for eligible students

Funding to replace the transportation fees of eligible students (ie. those who live more than 2.4km from their designated regular program school) was provided based on 2015-16 student enrolment.

Nutrition program

The province has provided funding for new nutrition programs in 23 CBE schools. The provincial nutrition program provides funding for healthy food for students at school.



Playground funding

School playgrounds are usually built through parent fundraising society activities in Alberta. All new schools announced between Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2018 are now eligible for a \$250,000 playground grant.



Support for LGBTQ2+ students

Multiple pieces of legislation have been passed to support and protect LGBTQ2+ students.

Let's work together

By working together, we can better identify the needs of our communities and the solutions required. With limited resources, it is critical that we direct funds to the areas of greatest need. Collaboration will be essential to ensuring the best outcomes for our students.



learn more |
visit our website at cbe.ab.ca

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