



interim 2015-16 budget speaking notes

The following notes were used by Chief Financial Officer Brad Grundy to present the [2015-16 interim budget](#) to the Board of Trustees on May 12, 2015.

Chair Bowen-Eyre, Trustees:

Today we are presenting for your approval an interim budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

With the recent election of a new government there is significant uncertainty related to what education funding will look like in Alberta for the coming year. We are seeking clarification and guidance from the Government. In the meantime, we must submit a balanced budget by May 31 to comply with the requirements of the *School Act*.

Therefore we are presenting a simplified “interim” budget that is designed to keep as many options open as possible while supporting the prudent resourcing of our schools for the fall.

A few important things to note. This proposed interim budget assumes provincial funding for 2015-16 will allow the CBE to maintain services at a level consistent with the 2014-15 school year, adjusted for projected enrolment growth. At this time that revenue assumption is by no means certain. The CBE’s final 2015-16 budget will be presented once that critical number has been determined through the provincial budget process.

This interim budget provides funding to schools to allow them to address issues related to enrolment growth while maintaining class-sizes equivalent to those of 2014-15. Principals will be considering their School Development Plan and the learning needs of students as they plan for next year. Principals have consulted with staff and community stakeholders and will be making decisions within the context of available resources to determine school organization, programming and staffing. We are currently in the process of understanding the details of the principal deployment decisions for the upcoming school year.

This interim budget does not assume the use of operating reserves. Rather, the CBE looks forward to working collaboratively with the Province to determine how our operating reserves can be best deployed in support of student learning. This interim budget does not assume any significant reductions to service units at this time. It recommends maintaining services and supports to students, teachers, and schools at 2014-15 levels. Final service unit program and service levels will change based on the level of funding ultimately provided in the provincial budget.

We will continue to look for efficiencies and be prudent in how we use dollars to support student success.

To that end, this interim budget assumes that a number of key reviews will proceed to ensure that the CBE continues to provide world-class education to each of our students within the funding ultimately allocated to us. Those reviews will include an examination of:

- Early learner programs and services including the provision of all-day kindergarten;
- The synergies and efficiencies between CBe-Learn, Chinook Learning Services, Encore CBE, and Discovering Choices to ensure they support the overall learning agenda;
- How best to support our schools by making management easier to maximize resources and time directed to learning;
- How best to obtain further operational efficiencies across all service units while maintaining a flexible and robust learning environment; and
- The methodology and approach to allocating fiscal resources to schools.

This interim budget recommends maintaining transportation and Instructional Supplies and Materials fees at 2014-15 levels. Noon supervision fees will increase by \$5 per year to address the increase in costs in providing those services to a larger student population. To maintain transportation fees at 2014-15 levels, certain service level changes will be implemented including a move to congregated stops and changes to the Calgary Transit rebate program. Adjustments will be made to fees or services if the government provides additional funding for this. This interim budget makes available \$25.4 million in non-facility capital funding to support investments in maintaining and enhancing the student learning environment. Once final budget numbers are received from the Province, Administration will bring forward to the Board of Trustees a final 2015-16 budget with full details for its discussion and approval.

As does the Board, Administration looks forward to working with the Provincial government as this process evolves.

We would be pleased to take your questions at this time.