



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

Funding for Public School Education, is it Equitable?

The recent budget announcement has generated some pointed conversations in both mainstream and social media as well as in homes and businesses across the province. As you continue to meet people in your region, you may hear various points of view on funding for K-12 education in Alberta. We too, have been reading and listening to Albertans' perspectives on the topic and it is evident that clarification is required on a number of points.

I'd like to emphasize that Alberta's public school education system is recognized around the world for excellent outcomes. In order to maintain that standing, appropriate funding for infrastructure, staffing, supports, transportation and programming is required.

While all Alberta schools are publicly funded, all Alberta schools are not Public Schools.

To clarify, Alberta has six school systems, five of which are publicly funded, with all schools in Alberta receiving government funding on a per student basis. This funding follows the student, no matter which school they attend, functioning the same as a voucher would.

Provincially Funded Education						
School Jurisdiction	Public	Separate	Francophone	Charter	Private	Home Schooling
Funding Structure	Education Property Taxes & General Revenue Fund	Education Property Taxes & General Revenue Fund	Education Property Taxes & General Revenue Fund	General Revenue Fund	General Revenue Fund	General Revenue Fund
Alberta Student Representation	64.1%	22.6%	1.4%	1.4%	5.1%	2.9%
Eligible Government Funding Split	100%	100%	100%	100%	70%	\$850 per year
Charge Tuition	X	X	X	X	✓	NA
Accepts all Students	✓	X	X	X	X	NA



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While government funding flows to all schools in Alberta, all schools do not accept and accommodate the needs of every student. Only Public Schools are required to do so, and so the implications of this legislative directive are numerous and complex. For instance, look at the representation of students within each school jurisdiction and then compare that to the eligibility of government funding split, particularly to the eligibility of Charter schools in comparison to Public Schools.

Appropriate funding and the responsible allocation of resources is needed to ensure an excellent and equitable education for all Alberta students.

It is commonly accepted that there is a direct correlation between educational funding and student success. To that point, we encourage the government to improve the funding model for K-12 education, ensuring equity across the system.

While the recent budget announcement included a number of education-related items, there is much work to do to answer Albertans' questions about the perpetual funding gap.

We encourage the government to conduct a thorough evaluation of:

1. Spending on K-12 education across the ecosystem, understanding where and why the system experiences a continual shortfall.
 - This remains relevant despite the recent 2023 budget announcements.
2. Public school education funding in light of key economic and societal impacts including but not limited to: immigration, inflation, learning loss and mental health.
3. All legislation and regulation impacting the public school system and the larger K-12 education ecosystem – seeking transparency, equity and improved efficiencies.



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Public Schools have become experts in allocating limited funds across diverse school programs and school infrastructure and can provide a data-driven perspective on education funding and outcomes. As partners in Alberta's learning ecosystem, we look forward to working with the government to establish an effective and transparent funding model that puts student success first.

While each district has its own set of challenges and opportunities, we encourage you to become more informed and engaged to ensure students in your region, and across the province, receive the best possible Public School education. I invite you to reach out to your local Public School Board and meet directly with the community leaders who are guiding K-12 education for your region.