

Key Funding Facts of the Public School System

The 2006-07 education budget is the highest EVER in the province. It has grown from \$4.60 billion in 2000-01 to \$5.196 billion in 2006-07.

Since 2000-01, the Province has increased operating grant funding to B.C. public schools by \$958 million; \$551 million in annual district operating grants and \$407 million in special, one-time grants.

During the same period, enrolment has declined by 42,500 students.

In 2006/07, BC will spend a record \$7,596 per student--an increase of \$503 over last year and \$1,326 per student since 2000/01.

Since 2001, the Province has invested over \$1 billion on 26 new schools, 31 replacements, 140 additions, 30 renovations and 4 seismic projects. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across British Columbia. The Province is ensuring the safety of staff and students by investing \$1.5 billion for seismic upgrades to schools – 95 of the highest priority schools are currently in the process of being upgraded.

We have invested \$92 million to improve literacy since 2001. This funding includes:

- \$15 million to support innovation literacy programs for the third year in a row.
- \$1.8 million to support literacy programs at B.C. libraries, train library staff in early literacy and acquire technology that will help libraries participate in electronic opportunities in the future.
- \$1.44 million to open 16 Strong Start early learning centres.
- \$1.28 million for adult literacy programs

The Province has invested \$285.5 million this year in supplemental funding for special needs students. This is in addition to the per pupil funding; more than \$26 million to host school boards to operate Provincial Resource Programs like Special Education Technology BC, the Provincial School for the Deaf, and education programs in youth custody centres; and \$3 million allocated for students with special needs who either move from one district to another or who are identified after the September 30 final enrolment count.

Government provides an estimated \$48.1 million, or \$950 per aboriginal student, in funding for special aboriginal education programs – money that is separate from the per-student funding given to school districts.