

Five Ways Parents Can Advocate for Better Education Funding

1. Talk to the media.

Put a face to the underfunding: news outlets like to be able to tell stories about specific people and their experiences. Find contact info on websites for newspapers, TV stations, and radio stations. For example, CBC has its “Go Public” feature (www.cbc.ca/news/gopublic) and some papers have education reporters, eg: Cheryl Rossi at the Courier (twitter: @Cheryl_Rossi) and Tracy Sherlock at the Vancouver Sun (tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com). Examples of parents in the news:

- “Fed up mom refusing to pay for school’s photocopy paper”:
<http://bc.ctvnews.ca/fed-up-mom-refusing-to-pay-for-school-s-photocopy-paper-1.2580382>
- “For Vancouver Parents, School Fundraising ‘Has Become Our Lives’”:
<http://theyee.ca/News/2015/03/06/Vancouver-School-Fundraising/>

2. Talk to your elected representatives.

Find contact information for MLAs (your representatives in the provincial legislature), the premier, and the ministers of education and finance here:

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>.

Tell them what you want them to do to improve public education.

3. Talk to parents around you.

Tell other parents the facts about education budget cuts. Post the articles listed above on your PAC’s bulletin board. Post this info sheet and the FACE pamphlet too.

4. Connect with groups advocating for public education.

- Families Against Cuts to Education (FACE): <https://facebc.wordpress.com/>; @FACE_BC; facebc.vancouver@gmail.com
- Parent Advocacy Network (parents from PACs in Vancouver): parentadvocacynetwork@gmail.com
- BC Parents of Special Needs Children (Action for Equitable Access to Education): <https://equitableaccesstoeducation.wordpress.com>

5. Use social media to stay in touch and spread information.

- Facebook groups such as: BC Citizens for Public Education; Watchdogs of Public Education BC; BC voters supporting BC teachers and public education; Families Against Cuts to Education – FACE Vancouver
- Twitter: #BCed