

## EDUCATION FACTS

*Sources for information in the FACE pamphlet "What's Happening to Public Education in British Columbia?" (updated March 2016)*

BC spends about \$1000 less per student than the national average. Only PEI spends less than BC.

*(<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/2013099/tbl/tbl21-eng.htm>)*

In 2002-03, K-12 education accounted for roughly 19 per cent of the government's budget. In 2016-17, it will account for about 12 per cent, according to government budget estimates.

*(<http://www.osoyoostimes.com/school-closures-are-province-wide-crisis-communities-torn-as-hundreds-of-schools-closed-in-face-of-funding-shortfalls/>)*

Between 2002 and 2015, the following full-time specialist teacher positions were cut: 969 Special Education teachers, 223 English Language Learning teachers, 345 teacher-librarians, 133 counsellors, and 6 Aboriginal Education teachers.

*(<https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Publications/Briefs/EdFundingBrief2015.pdf>, page 20]*

Between 2002 and 2015, 240 schools were closed in BC.

*(<https://bctf.ca/SchoolClosures.aspx>)*

BC parents are fundraising for necessities, including library books, technology, and art and music classes. Relying on fundraising leads to a two-tiered system of "have" and "have not" schools.

*(<http://thetyee.ca/News/2015/03/06/Vancouver-School-Fundraising/>)*

Parent fundraising in six lower mainland school districts amounted to \$6.47 million in one year.

*(<http://vancouver.24hrs.ca/2016/01/05/donations-increasingly-funding-bc-schools/>)*

In 2005, the BC government announced that schools with high earthquake risk ratings would be made seismically safe by 2020. In 2015, the current government announced that that goal would not be met until 2030. There are 193 high-risk schools in BC that still need seismic upgrades. Of those, 128 have not even been approved for funding yet.

*(Progress Report—Seismic Mitigation Program, October 2015:*

*[http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/resource-management/capital-planning/seismic-mitigation/progress\\_report.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/resource-management/capital-planning/seismic-mitigation/progress_report.pdf))*

The education budget announced in February 2016 includes an increase only big enough to cover negotiated wage increases. It does not cover the cost of inflation or rising costs of items like MSP premiums and hydro rates. It also includes a \$25

million “administrative savings” cut for public schools, and an increase of \$48 million for private (independent) schools.  
*[<http://www.nationalpost.com/m/related/education+gets+status+budget/11723403/story.html>]*

“Administrative cuts” have led to boards cutting school bus service, custodial hours, and educational assistant hours, among many other cuts that directly affect kids in classrooms.  
*[[https://dsweb.bcsta.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-77442/2015-05-22\\_bcsta\\_update.htm](https://dsweb.bcsta.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-77442/2015-05-22_bcsta_update.htm)]*

The Ministry of Education’s 2016 service plan (budget) can be found here:  
*<http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2016/sp/pdf/ministry/educ.pdf>*

The BC government’s 95% capacity requirement means that up to 21 schools in Vancouver will be closed or repurposed by 2030.  
*[<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/vancouver+school+board+staff+report+calls+closure+schools/11660603/story.html>]*

Many children with special needs have left the public education system because of a lack of support.  
*(<https://equitableaccesstoeducation.wordpress.com/full-forced-out-survey-report/>)*

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