



WORTH KNOWING

Budget Implications

Over the past year, teachers and school boards have ridden the funding roller coaster. October's budget saw school boards grappling with significant funding reductions. The cuts ranged from \$122,000 for Lakeland Catholic School Division to \$30.235 million for Calgary School District. Five boards enjoyed modest increases.

The budget released on 2020 02 27 partially restored funding to school boards. All boards will have more money next year than in this current year, however, many boards will still have less than last year while a few will have more than last year.

The big picture view is that funding levels still have not kept up with enrolment growth and inflation. Data from the 2005/06 Alberta Education annual report, enrolment estimates from Alberta Education along with historical enrolment data, and price level data from Statistics Canada illustrates this. From 2005/06 to 2019/20, total funding to school boards grew by 67 per cent; that works out to 3.85 per cent per year. During that same time, enrolments grew by 44 per cent (2.64 per cent on an annual basis) and the price level grew by 44.3 per cent (2.76 per cent on an annual basis). When we combine the effects of enrolment growth and inflation, real funding per student actually fell by 7.4 per cent between 2005/06 and 2019/20. This works out to a decrease of 0.5 per cent per year.[\[1\]](#)

Based on government projections of school board funding for 2020/21 and assuming 2 per cent enrolment growth province-wide, the decrease in real funding per student between 2005/06 and 2020/21 will be about 9.2 per cent (-0.6 per cent annually).

WORTH SHARING

Education funding has not kept up with inflation and enrolment growth and will have fallen by 9.2 per cent between 2005/06 and 2020/21. **#WEAREATA**