

2024-25

Saskatoon Public Schools Budget Report



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THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Saskatoon Public Schools is governed by a 10-person elected Board of Education. *The Education Act, 1995* gives the Board of Education the authority to govern the school division.

The school division is organized into 10 wards for the purpose of elections, but once elected, the members of the Board of Education represent all students in the division and are committed to providing the very best education possible for every student.

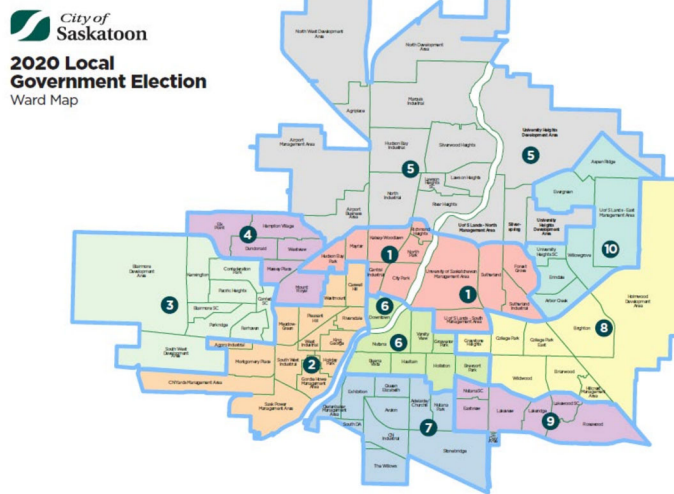
The current Board of Education was elected on November 13, 2020 and is serving a four-year term. Board of Education members are:



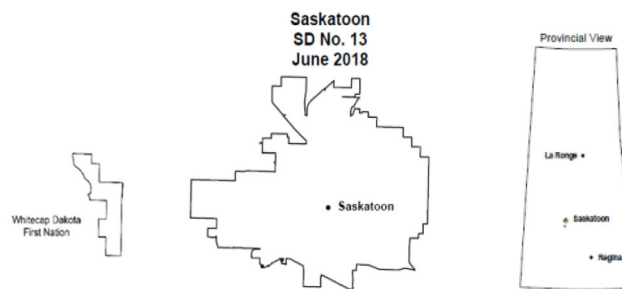
SCHOOL DIVISION PROFILE

Saskatoon Public Schools encompasses the City of Saskatoon and includes Whitecap Dakota Nation. It is the largest school division in the province, educating over 28,000 students in 47 elementary schools, 10 collegiates, one k-12 school and one alliance school.

The school division is organized into 10 wards for election purposes.



Each school is also represented by a school community council that works closely with the school administrative team to facilitate parent and community participation.



STRATEGIC PLAN

Saskatoon Public Schools' strategic plan prioritizes academic excellence, character development, student engagement and well-being as the four student goals. The vision is clearly articulated and resonates with students, staff, parents, caregivers and the broader community. The current strategic plan will conclude in 2026.

Saskatoon Public Schools
STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VISION
Every Student is
Known • Valued • Believed In



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Students will achieve success in their learning goals

CHARACTER
Students will demonstrate respect, responsibility, and perseverance

ENGAGEMENT
Students will actively participate in relevant and meaningful learning

WELL-BEING
Students will develop the skills to make healthy choices

OUR COMMITMENT
We will create learning experiences that inspire all students to reach their potential.



Saskatoon Public Schools
STRATEGIC PLAN

FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT

RELATIONSHIPS We will

- foster caring and supportive relationships
- honour diversity
- create welcoming and joyful spaces
- develop and grow community partnerships

EQUITY We will

- be open to all
- maintain high expectations for all
- enact anti-racist/anti-oppressive practices
- pursue a representative workforce

ACCOUNTABILITY We will

- respond to student needs through evidence-based practices
- focus on Indigenous student success
- pursue continuous improvement
- ensure safe, caring, and accepting environments



BUDGETARY IMPACTS

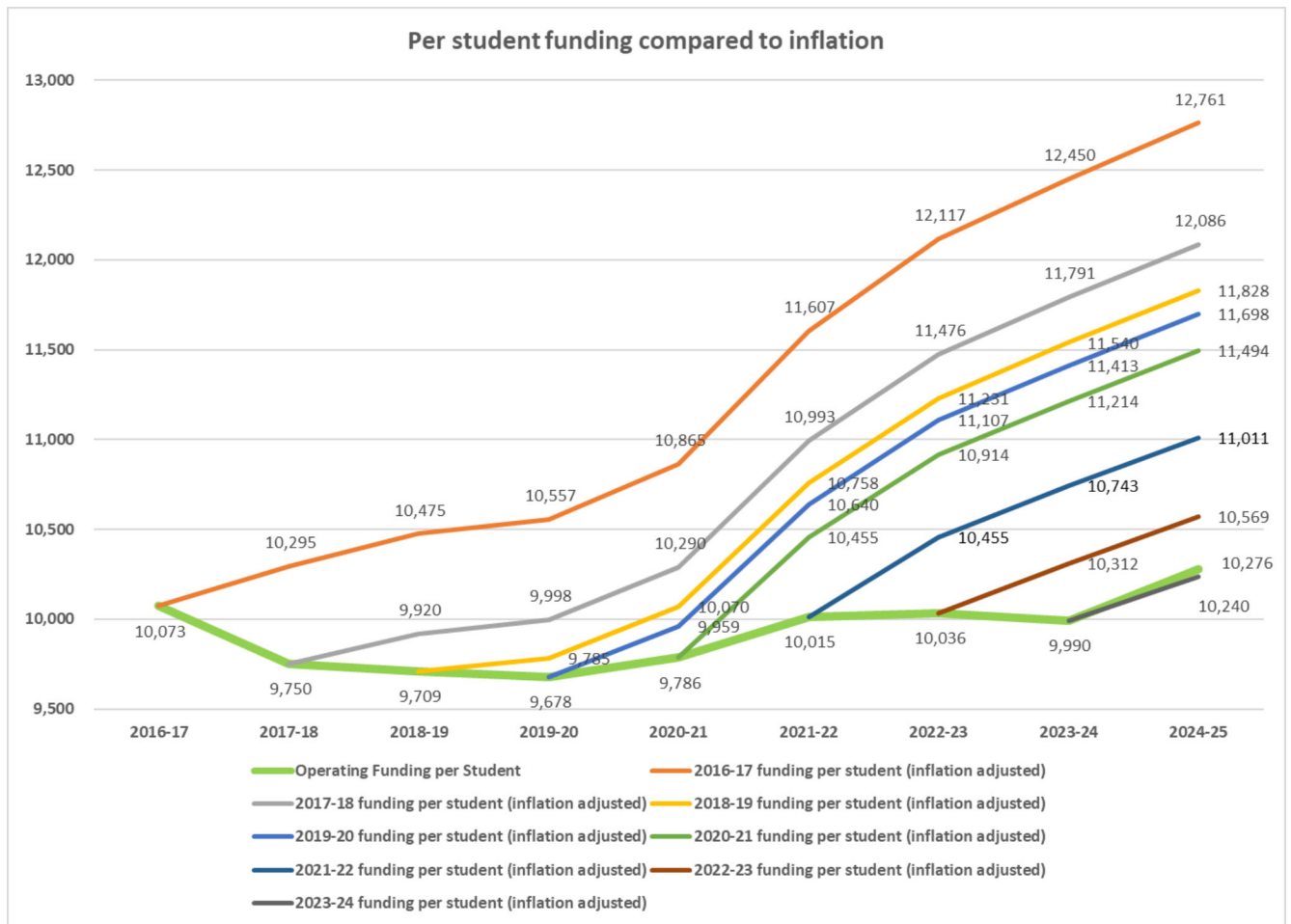
The March 20, 2024 provincial budget increased Saskatoon Public Schools' operating funding by 7.6% or \$19.9 million, with an operating grant of \$281.6 million¹ compared to \$261.7 million in 2023-24.

The projected enrolment for September 2024 is 28,932 students. Student enrolment as of September 2023 was 28,246. Enrolment has increased significantly due primarily to newcomers to Canada. The division is proud to welcome so many additional students. However, growth does provide challenges, especially in terms of student need and facility space.

The division has also faced significant inflationary pressures for salaries, benefits and other expenditures. The following graph shows the per student funding from 2016-17 to 2024-25 and compares it to an inflation adjusted per student funding amount over that period. For many of the historical years there is a significant gap between the inflation adjusted per student funding and the actual per student funding received. Not being funded for inflation in previous years has led to expenditure reductions and increased fees to families each year to balance the budget. It also results in a continued reduction in investment in school buildings. For 2024-25, the school division received funding that covered the inflationary and enrolment increases in the budget. The division hopes this funding for inflation will continue so that further reductions and increased fees are not required in future years.

However, the increased funding does not adequately address the increase in student need over the prior year, which is the third major cost driver for the school division.

¹ Excluding associate schools, debt funding, estimated September 30th enrolment adjustment and complementary services (pre-kindergarten). Funding from 2023-24 includes mid-year funding adjustment and additional classroom support funding received.



As of August 31, 2023 the division had unrestricted reserve balances of \$4.9 million (1.7% of operating revenue) and internally restricted reserve balances of \$18.6 million (6.51% of operating revenue). The majority of the internally restricted reserves as of August 31, 2023 are designated for school budgets, technology replacement and facilities. The division is expecting to draw down internally restricted reserve balances by \$13.7 million in 2023-24 for technology replacement and facility projects. In 2024-25, the division will also draw down the Pleasant Hill relocation reserve by \$0.275 million and the unrestricted reserve by \$0.55 million to cover school board election costs. The remaining reserves would continue to be used for school budgets, facility costs, technology replacement and other capital expenditures. There are no significant reserves available to fund operating deficits, which means that spending must align with funding each year.

Funding provided to the division in 2024-25 has allowed for investments in student supports including special education and support staff, professional development and facilities operating costs. The funding provided was insufficient to address class size and will provide some supports for classroom

complexity but not adequately address the anticipated significant increase in student need. Budget changes for 2024-25 are outlined below.

Budget additions:

- Increased salaries and benefits for teachers due to additional teachers to support enrolment growth, estimated salary increases for an anticipated new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) and teacher step movements - \$13.5 million
- Increased teacher substitute costs - \$0.4 million
- Increased salaries for non-teaching staff - \$1.3 million
- Increased costs for CPP, EI and other benefits - \$1.5 million
- Software licensing - \$0.3 million
- Facilities operating costs to partially offset inflation - \$0.4 million
- Transportation contracted costs - \$0.6 million
- Insurance costs - \$0.1 million
- Utilities costs - \$0.4 million
- Saskatoon International Education program budget - \$0.2 million
- School board election costs - \$0.55 million
- 3.0 FTE elementary resource teachers - \$0.3 million
- 2.0 FTE secondary counsellors - \$0.2 million
- 1.0 FTE elementary counsellor - \$0.1 million
- 1.0 FTE elementary English as an Additional Language (EAL) teacher - \$0.1 million
- 1.0 FTE special education consultant - \$0.12 million
- 2.0 FTE caretakers - \$0.13 million
- School operating budgets for enrolment growth - \$0.08 million
- New secondary autism resource program (1.0 FTE teacher and 1.0 FTE educational assistant) - \$0.15 million
- Professional development for teaching staff - \$0.1 million
- Facilities project costs - \$0.21 million.

ADVOCACY

To ensure adequate funding to meet the outcomes detailed in the strategic plan, the board and administration will continue to work tirelessly to advocate for sufficient, sustainable and predictable funding. Specific priorities are as follows:

- Supports for Learning funding for students with special needs as well as those with complex needs - expenditures in this area exceeded funding by \$10.4 million in 2022-23.

- i. Included in this shortfall is a \$2.4 million financial deficit from operating John Dolan School. This school offers a specialized learning environment for students ages 5 to 21 with multiple disabilities. Approximately 1/3 of the current student population are originally from outside Saskatoon and are residing in the city with their families or in the care of the Ministry of Social Services in group homes.
- Sufficient funding to adequately address the significant learning disparity for First Nation, Inuit and Métis students.
 - Locally negotiated and provincial collective agreements.
 - Regulatory cost increases for carbon tax and Canada Pension Plan payments.
 - Inflation increases in facilities, transportation, utilities and technology.
 - Capital and annual funding to address the backlog of needs for our school buildings to minimize the risk of breakdowns, insurance claims and service outages.
 - Funding to replace technology infrastructure.
 - Funding to accomplish the goals of the approved Provincial Education Plan.

ASSUMPTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

The following are the most significant assumptions:

1. The ministry will approve the 2024-25 budget as presented.
2. The 2024-25 budget includes projected enrolment of 28,932 students. This is an increase of 686 students from the actual enrolment of September 2023 of 28,246 students. A material change in enrolment will significantly impact funding and expenditures.

The following are key definitions for the budget document:

1. **Discretionary Reserves** – These are internally restricted and unrestricted reserves that the board can designate to cover operating or capital expenditures. This excludes externally restricted reserves including school generated funds, pension asset, preventative maintenance and renewal funds, capital funds restricted by the ministry, partnership and alternate funds reserves and public charity reserves.
2. **Inflation** – This is calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by Statistics Canada for Saskatoon. The CPI represents changes in prices as experienced by Canadian consumers. It measures price change by comparing, through time, the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services.

3. **Student Enrolment** – Includes the total number of students pre-kindergarten to grade 12.
4. **Supports for Learning (SFL) funding** – This allocates funding to boards of education for the salary costs of staff who provide services and related programming to ensure that all students have equal access to, and benefit from, the provincial education program and non-salary costs related to supports required for learning. These supports reflect a comprehensive array of services for all students at the classroom, school, and school division levels, such as:
 - resource/learning assistance services
 - English as an additional language supports for First Nations, Métis, Hutterian, immigrant, and other learners who require support and whose first language is not English
 - formative, summative, and diagnostic assessment to guide the planning and implementation of responsive instruction, interventions, and supports that meet the needs of all students
 - psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and social workers
 - counselling and addictions supports
 - interagency collaboration and settlement supports
 - community engagement
 - assistive technology.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Statement of Operations

	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2023-24
<u>Revenues</u>		
Provincial grants	\$ 327,176,683	\$ 286,040,497
Tuition and related fees	2,249,869	2,489,418
Complementary services	5,710,408	5,377,922
External services	9,724,058	10,935,554
School generated	5,155,000	4,155,000
Other	3,851,312	3,913,647
Total revenues	\$ 353,867,329	\$ 312,912,038
<u>Expenses</u>		
Governance	\$ 1,279,081	\$ 686,127
Administration	7,630,979	7,084,351
Instruction	253,221,555	235,499,072
Plant	52,782,923	50,343,089
School generated	5,267,392	4,267,392
Transportation	8,422,717	7,932,139
Tuition and related fees	812,825	807,145
Complementary services	5,828,498	5,472,862
External services	10,446,884	11,607,652
Other expense	877,255	200,944
Total expenses	\$ 346,570,108	\$ 323,900,773
Surplus/(deficit)	\$ 7,297,221	\$ (10,988,735)

Cash Flow Requirements

	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2023-24
Total revenues	353,867,329	293,311,878
Total expenses	346,570,108	298,629,382
Surplus/(deficit)	7,297,221	(5,317,504)
<i>Tangible capital assets:</i>		
Purchases	(31,060,000)	(12,513,000)
<i>Long-term debt:</i>		
Debt repayments	(1,385,874)	(2,039,418)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Amortization expense	18,030,000	15,560,000
Employee future benefits expenses	640,800	702,900
Asset Retirement Obligation/accretion	658,000	-
<i>Other cash requirements:</i>		
Employee future benefits expected payments	(343,100)	(295,300)
<i>Reserves:</i>		
Use of capital reserves	4,700,000	1,940,000
Use of operating reserves	825,000	1,200,000
Use of technology reserves	637,953	762,322
Surplus/deficit	\$ -	\$ -

REVENUES

In 2024-25, revenues are estimated to be \$353.9 million, an increase of 13.1% compared to the previous year's budget.

	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2023-24	\$ Change	% Change
Revenues				
Provincial grants (note 1)	\$ 327,176,683	\$ 286,040,497	41,136,186	14.4%
Tuition and related fees (note 2)	\$ 2,249,869	\$ 2,489,418	(239,549)	-9.6%
Complementary services (note 3)	\$ 5,710,408	\$ 5,377,922	332,486	6.2%
External services (note 4)	\$ 9,724,058	\$ 10,935,554	(1,211,496)	-11.1%
School generated (note 5)	\$ 5,155,000	\$ 4,155,000	1,000,000	24.1%
Other	\$ 3,851,312	\$ 3,913,647	(62,335)	-1.6%
Total Revenues	\$ 353,867,329	\$ 312,912,038	\$ 40,955,292	13.1%

Notes:

1. Increases to the provincial grant funding for education and projected enrolment growth in the division. This includes an increase to the operating grant of \$18.5 million, increases to the federal grant for Jordan's Principle of \$2.4 million, increases to the P3 grant for contracted maintenance services \$0.2 million, and increases to provincial grants for capital projects \$20.1 million.
2. Tuition and related fees decreased mainly due to an decrease in the estimated number of students attending Saskatoon Public Schools from the alliance agreement with Whitecap Dakota Nation.
3. Complementary services increased mainly due to grant increases for pre-kindergarten, complementary youth in hospital and youth in custody programs and special education preschool programs.
4. External grant funding has decreased due to the removal of an associate school.
5. School generated revenues have increased primarily due to increased student activities and corresponds with an increase in school generated expenses.

EXPENSES

In 2024-25, expenses are estimated to be \$346.6 million, an increase of 7.0% compared to the previous year's budget.

	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2023-24	\$ Change	% Change
<u>Expenses</u>				
Governance (note 1)	\$ 1,279,081	\$ 686,127	\$ 592,955	86.4%
Administration (note 2)	\$ 7,630,979	\$ 7,084,351	546,627	7.7%
Instruction (note 3)	\$ 253,221,555	\$ 235,499,072	17,722,482	7.5%
Plant (note 4)	\$ 52,782,923	\$ 50,343,089	2,439,834	4.8%
School generated (note 5)	\$ 5,267,392	\$ 4,267,392	1,000,000	23.4%
Transportation (note 6)	\$ 8,422,717	\$ 7,932,139	490,578	6.2%
Tuition and related fees	\$ 812,825	\$ 807,145	5,680	0.7%
Complementary services (note 7)	\$ 5,828,498	\$ 5,472,862	355,636	6.5%
External services (note 8)	\$ 10,446,884	\$ 11,607,652	(1,160,768)	-10.0%
Other expense (note 9)	\$ 877,255	\$ 200,944	676,311	336.6%
Total expenses	\$ 346,570,108	\$ 323,900,773	\$ 22,669,335	7.0%

Notes:

- Governance costs have increased due to budgeting for Saskatoon Public School division's share of the upcoming school board election costs.
- Administration costs increased primarily due to increases in salaries and benefits costs. This includes increased benefits cost for CPP of approximately 4.5% and EI of 4.7%.
- Instruction cost increases are primarily the result of contractual or regulatory reasons, in addition to enrolment increases and student needs. Salary costs for teaching and non-teaching staff and benefits costs increases have been estimated for 2024-25. This includes increased benefits cost for CPP of approximately 4.5% and EI of 4.7%. Additional teaching positions have been included as noted in the budget impacts section of this document.
- Plant costs increased mainly due to increased inflationary pressures in contractual commitments, utilities, materials and supplies. Additional caretakers and funds for facilities operating projects have been added to the 2024-25 budget.
- School generated expenses have increased primarily due to increased student activities and corresponds with an increase in school generated revenues.

6. Transportation costs increased mainly due to enrolment growth and inflationary pressures in contractual costs.
7. Complementary services expenses have increased mainly due to projected salary and benefits cost increases for pre-kindergarten, complementary youth in hospital and youth in custody programs and special education preschool programs.
8. External expenses have decreased due to the removal of an associate school.
9. Other expenses have increased due to the inclusion of a budget for accretion expense related to the accounting for the asset retirement obligation for asbestos in school buildings.

SALARIES AND BENEFITS

In 2024-25, salaries and benefits are expected to cost \$265.7 million, an increase of approximately \$17.8 million or 7.2% compared to the 2023-2024 budget. The increase is due to additional teaching staff to address enrolment growth and supports for classroom complexity, increased salary cost for teaching and non-teaching staff and benefit cost increases including Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance increases. An increase of \$2.4 million in salary expense relates to increased salaries for the Jordan's Principle educational assistants due to program growth.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Capital Plan

Source of Funding and Total Cost of Annual and Multi-Year Projects

Facilities department:

Capital projects:

School relocatables

City Centre Consolidation project

New East Collegiate

New Elementary School

Subtotal

Other departments:

Special education - technical aids

Total capital projects - all departments

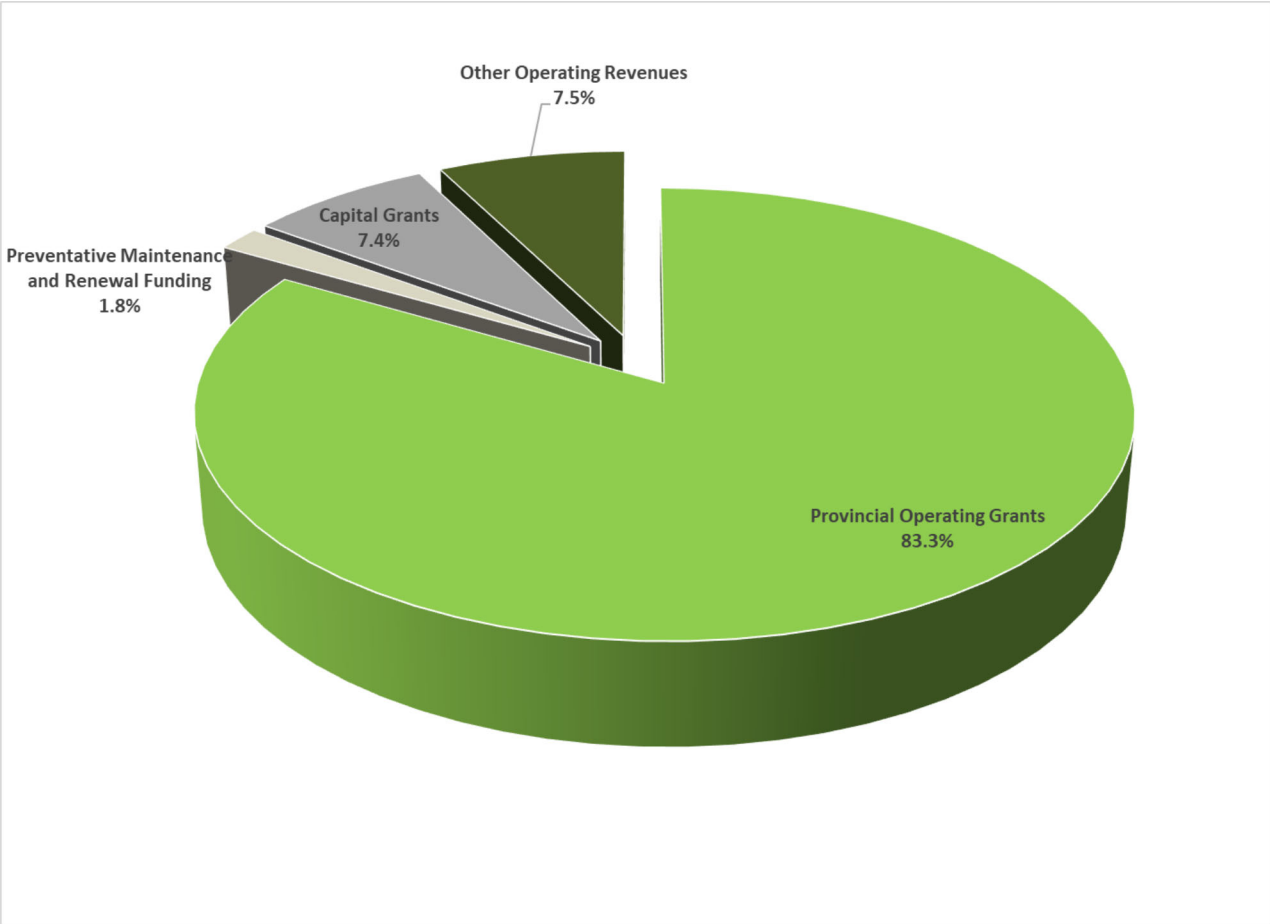
Source of Funding		
Funding from the Ministry	Capital Plan 2024-25	Total Capital Costs
-	4,700,000	\$ 4,700,000
11,983,000	-	\$ 11,983,000
13,729,000	-	\$ 13,729,000
400,000	-	\$ 400,000
\$ 26,112,000	\$ 4,700,000	\$ 30,812,000
-	248,000	248,000
\$ 26,112,000	\$ 4,948,000	\$ 31,060,000

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

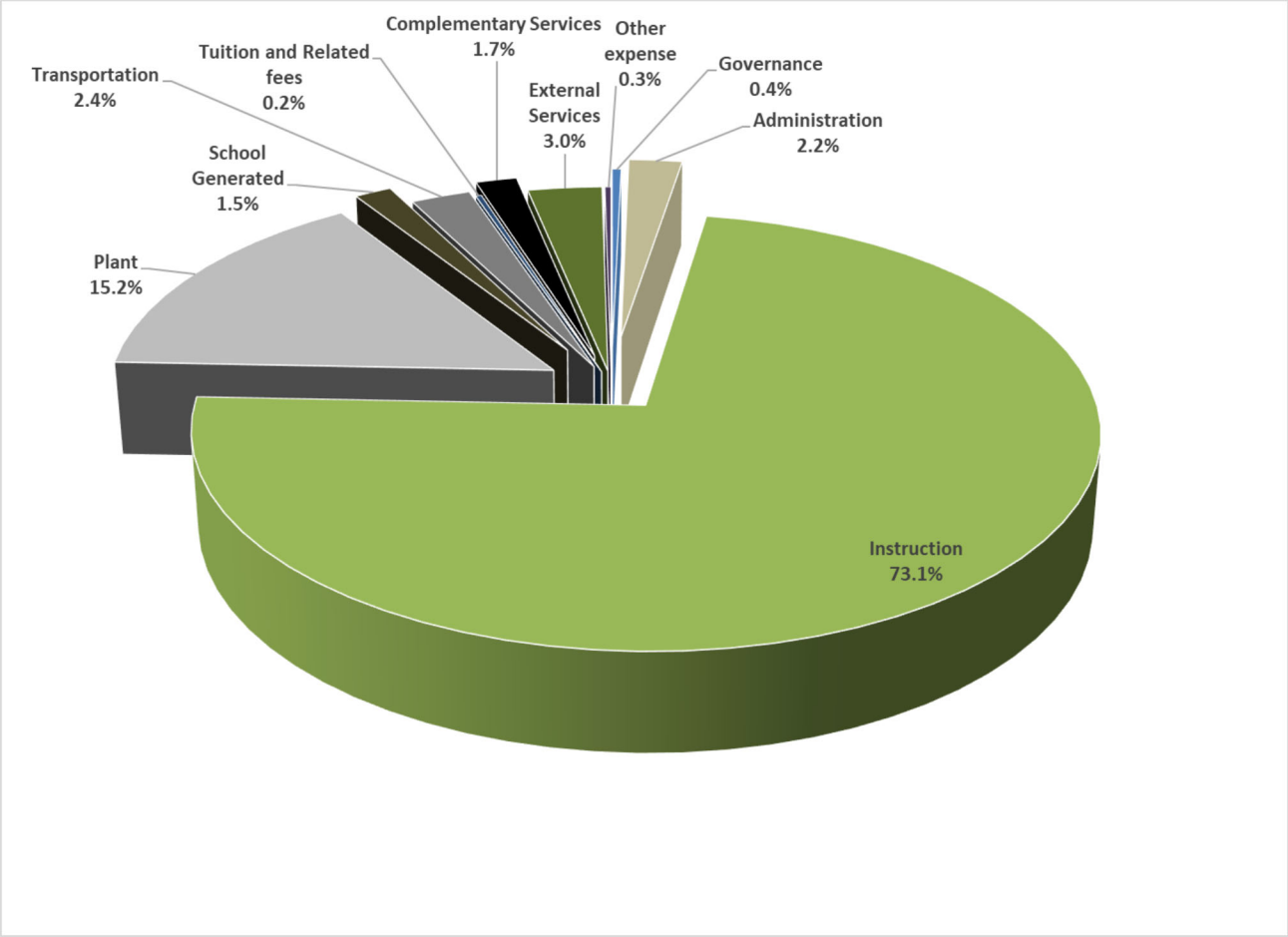
That the board approve its annual operating and capital budget estimates for the fiscal year September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025 as detailed in the *2024-25 Budget Report* subject to minor final edits.

APPENDIX – ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

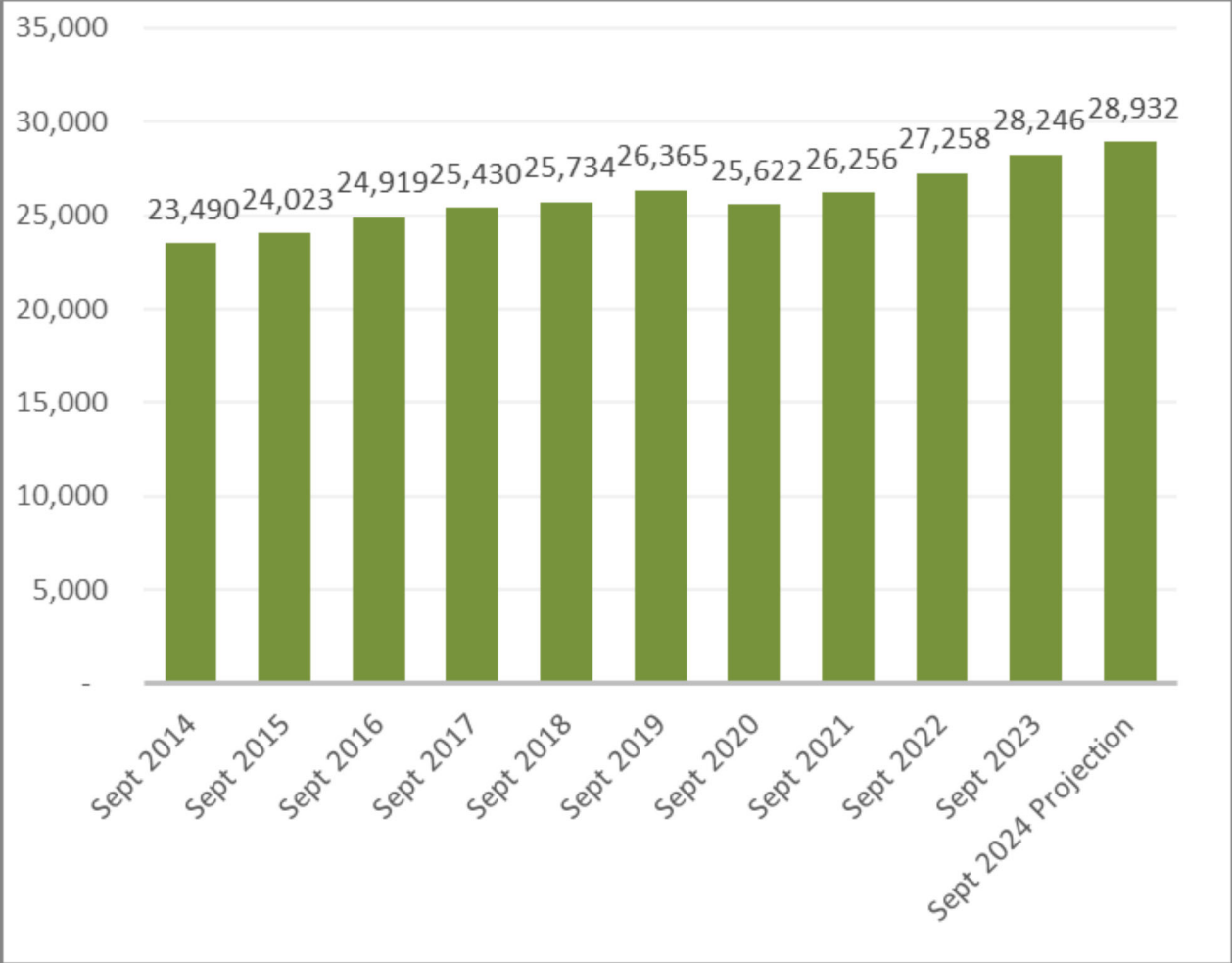
Total Revenue Sources for the Year Ending August 31, 2025



Total Expenses for the Year Ending August 31, 2025



Student Enrolment 2014-2024*



* Enrolment numbers are based on the total number of students, pre-kindergarten to grade 12. Funding is based on student FTE's which is lower than the total enrolment number.

