

Summary of 2025/26 Preliminary Operating Grant Announcement

The operating grant block is projected to grow by \$123.7 million to over \$7.2 billion in 2025/26. The increase is the result of the addition of \$76.5 million in labour settlement funding plus estimated enrolment growth totalling \$47.2 million.

Per student funding rates have increased by an average of 1.2% as detailed in the table below.

Supplement	2025/26 Rates	2024/25 Rates	\$ Change	% Change
Basic Allocation (Standard, Continuing Education and Alternate schools)	\$9,015	\$8,915	\$100	1.1%
Basic Allocation (Online Learning)	\$7,280	\$7,200	\$80	1.1%
Inclusive Education – Level 1	\$51,300	\$50,730	\$570	1.1%
Inclusive Education – Level 2	\$24,340	\$24,070	\$270	1.1%
Inclusive Education – Level 3	\$12,300	\$12,160	\$140	1.2%
English/French Language Learning	\$1,815	\$1,795	\$20	1.1%
Indigenous Education	\$1,790	\$1,770	\$20	1.1%
Adult Education	\$5,755	\$5,690	\$65	1.1%
Summer Learning (Grades 1-9)	\$260	\$255	\$5	2.0%
Summer Learning (Grades 10-12)	\$510	\$505	\$5	1.0%

Supplements that are provided based on a formula have also increased:

Supplement	2025/26	2024/25	\$ Change	% Change
Equity of Opportunity Supplement	\$28.0M	\$27.5M	\$0.5M	1.8%
Student Location Factor	\$106.6M	\$104.8M	\$1.8M	1.7%

Labour Settlement Funding

Labour settlement funding from the third and final year of the 2022 Shared Recovery Mandate that was allocated as a special grant in 2024/25 has been rolled into the 2025/26 operating grant rates. This includes:

- Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for teachers and support staff (\$53.0 million);
- Salary increases for administrators in leadership roles (\$15.9 million); and
- Teachers’ professional development (\$2.2 million; allocations to be announced in April 2025).

In addition, \$5.5 million in labour settlement funding for extended health benefits plan standardization and improvements for support staff from the 2014 and 2019 Provincial Framework Agreements has also been allocated through the operating grant rates. This funding had previously been disbursed as annual payments to districts.

Enrolment Changes

School districts are estimating they will enrol 590,658 school-age FTE in September 2025, a slight increase of 1,249 FTE (or 0.2%) over the September 2024 total. Twenty-six (26) districts are estimating they will have increased enrolment in September 2025.

School districts are estimating slower or declining enrolment growth across the Unique Student Needs funding categories, including a 3.1% increase in Level 2 students (+1,074) compared to 8.6% growth in 2024/25, and fewer Level 1 (-19), Level 3 (-87), ELL/FLL (-141) and Indigenous Education (-422) students.

Operating Grant Changes

Forty-five (45) districts are estimated to have increases to their operating grants for the upcoming school year. The per student average, including all special grants, is an estimated \$13,596 for 2025/26, a 44.2% increase from 2016/17.

Funding for students with L1, L2 & L3 disabilities or diverse abilities is projected to grow by \$35.1 million, or 3.6%, from \$975 million to just over \$1.0 billion, as Level 2 enrolment continues to grow and labour settlement funding is added.

Funding will be recalculated when actual enrolment is known in the September 2025 enrolment count.

Funding Protection/Enrolment Decline

A total of 13 districts are receiving an estimated total of \$7.6 million in Funding Protection; this is more than double the amount compared to 2024/25 (\$3.3 million).

In 2025/26 it is estimated that 17 districts will receive \$3.9 million from the Supplement for Enrolment Decline, up from 16 districts and \$2.2 million in 2024/25.

Special Grants

In addition to the operating grant block, the following amounts are being provided for school district operations:

- Preliminary Classroom Enhancement Fund: \$757.4 million
- Learning Improvement Fund: \$25.0 million, unchanged
- CommunityLINK: \$60.4 million, unchanged
- Pay Equity: \$50.9 million, unchanged
- Student Transportation Fund: \$15.4 million, unchanged
- Feeding Futures Fund: \$71.5 million, unchanged

Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF)

The Ministry is announcing CEF staffing funding at 100% of the amounts for the current school year to facilitate budgeting and planning for the next school year. The overhead allocations will remain unchanged for 2025/26.

Thus, the preliminary Classroom Enhancement Fund is set at \$757.4 million:

- \$710.6 million for CEF staffing
- \$46.8 million for CEF overhead

As in previous years, the Ministry is not announcing CEF remedy funding at this time. CEF remedies will be allocated based on school district reporting of actual remedies incurred in October 2025.

The process for applying for any additional funding for the 2025/26 CEF staffing allocations will be the same as this year.

Indigenous Education Councils

Funding to support the implementation of Indigenous Education Councils (IECs) is increasing by approximately \$0.7 million to \$6.4 million in 2025/26.

IEC allocations are detailed in Table 14 of the [2025/26 Estimated Operating Grants](#).