Summary of 2026/27 Preliminary Operating Grant Announcement

The operating grant block is projected to decrease by $25.9 million to $7.242 billion in 2026/27, as most districts estimate their enrolment will decline in the upcoming school year.

There are no changes to the operating grant rates or formulae for 2026/27; per student funding rates remain unchanged from 2025/26:

Supplement	2026/27 Rates
Basic Allocation (Standard, Continuing Education and Alternate schools)	$9,015
Basic Allocation (Online Learning)	$7,280
Inclusive Education – Level 1	$51,300
Inclusive Education – Level 2	$24,340
Inclusive Education – Level 3	$12,300
English/French Language Learning	$1,815
Indigenous Education	$1,790
Adult Education	$5,755
Summer Learning (Grades 1-9)	$260
Summer Learning (Grades 10-12)	$510

Enrolment Changes

School districts are estimating they will enrol 581,007 school-age FTE in September 2026, a decrease of 5,727 FTE (or 1.0%) over the September 2025 total. Fifty-one (51) districts are estimating they will have decreased enrolment in September 2026.

School districts are estimating slower or declining enrolment growth across the Unique Student Needs funding categories, including a 2.7% increase in Level 2 students (+1,029) compared to 9.5% growth in 2025/26, and fewer Level 1 (-22), Level 3 (-445), ELL (-2,584) and Indigenous Education (-757) students.

Operating Grant Changes

Forty-six (46) districts are estimated to have decreases to their operating grants for the upcoming school year. The per student average, including all special grants, is an estimated $13,850 for 2026/27, a 46.9% increase from 2016/17.

Funding for students with L1, L2 & L3 disabilities or diverse abilities is projected to grow by $18.4 million, or 1.7%, from $1.062 billion to $1.080 billion, as Level 2 enrolment continues to grow.

Funding will be recalculated when actual enrolment is known in the September 2026 enrolment count.

Funding Protection/Enrolment Decline

A total of 23 districts are receiving an estimated total of $16.9 million in Funding Protection; this is substantially more than the $3.9 million allocated to 8 districts in 2025/26.

In 2026/27 it is estimated that 38 districts will receive $9.7 million from the Supplement for Enrolment Decline, up from 26 districts and $5.8 million in 2025/26.

Special Grants

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

- Preliminary Classroom Enhancement Fund: $810.0 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

The Annual Facility Grant will continue in 2026/27 but is now managed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and, as a result, will no longer appear on the Summary of Grants tables.

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.

Thus, the preliminary Classroom Enhancement Fund is set at $810.0 million:

- $763.2 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 2026.

The process for applying for any additional funding for the 2026/27 CEF staffing allocations will be the same as this year.

Indigenous Education Councils

Funding to support the implementation of Indigenous Education Councils (IECs) totals $2.4 million in 2026/27, the third and final year of funding in this envelope.

IEC allocations are detailed in Table 14 of the 2026/27 Estimated Operating Grants.

Labour Settlement Funding

Any funding provided to the Ministry as a result of negotiated collective agreement changes will be allocated as a special grant for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 school years following confirmation by the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat and Treasury Board.