



# Bringing Out the Best for K-12 Students



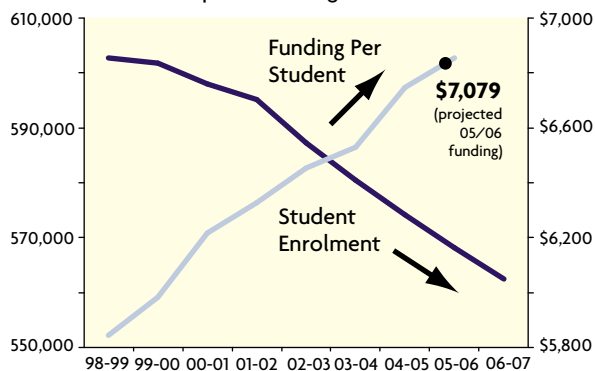
## Increasing Resources for Students

Since June 2001, the province has dedicated more to help meet the needs of students across B.C.:

- ▶ Increasing funding to B.C. public schools next year by \$150 million – the single largest increase in more than a decade.
- ▶ Investing \$1.8 billion in new, expanded and upgraded schools and facilities where they are needed most.
- ▶ Providing districts with a \$460-million increase in funding since 2000-01: \$305 million in operating funding; and \$153 million in one-time funding – the direct result of ministry administrative savings.
- ▶ Giving school districts greater flexibility in allotting funding, as well as greater accountability for the results.

## More for Every Student

Education Spending is Rising Despite Declining Enrolment



## Strengthening Accountability to Deliver a Quality Education

In partnership with school districts and parents, the province is working to improve accountability for students' learning outcomes. Initiatives include:

- ▶ Designating education an essential service to ensure no child is denied the right to instruction during school strikes or lockouts.
- ▶ Implementing school district reviews and accountability contracts to benchmark and improve performance in every district.
- ▶ Establishing school planning councils – consisting of three parents, one student, one teacher and the school principal – to identify student needs and set goals for improvement.

## Promoting Parental Involvement to Strengthen Schools

Studies have shown that strong parental involvement improves education, so the province has:

- ▶ Passed legislation to guarantee parents' right to volunteer at their children's schools.
- ▶ Introduced annual satisfaction surveys allowing parents to provide input and feedback regarding the school system.
- ▶ Eliminated the provincial sales tax on school items purchased by parent advisory councils, to maximize the value of their activities.
- ▶ Required every school in B.C. to have a school planning council made up of parents, the principal, teachers – and in the case of secondary schools, a student.

# Bringing Out the Best for K-12 Students

## Safeguarding Student Interests

*The province is helping to maximize student achievement, by:*

- ▶ Setting class-size limits for grades K-3, plus district-wide averages for all grades.
- ▶ Introducing new school safety standards to increase student safety and reduce bullying.
- ▶ Freeing students to attend the school of their choice, as long as space is available.
- ▶ Giving parents and students a new web tool to provide quick and easy access to information about the record number of choices available in B.C.'s public schools at: <http://www.achievecbc.ca/choices/>

## Maintaining Class-Size Limits Conducive to Learning



*Class-size limits for kindergarten through Grade 3, plus district-wide averages for class sizes in all grades, are now established in law.*

## Encouraging Active, Healthy Bodies and Minds

*Recognizing the vital role of physical health in student achievement, the province has:*

- ▶ Committed \$14.5 million to Action Schools! B.C., a program designed to help children become more physically active.
- ▶ Committed to eliminate junk food from schools over the next 4 ½ years.
- ▶ Included knowledge of personal health matters like physical activity and healthy eating in B.C.'s new graduation requirements.
- ▶ Committed to introduce clear performance standards for K to 7 physical education.

## Investing More to Improve B.C.'s Learning Conditions

*Children deserve safe, healthy, well-equipped schools that allow them to achieve their best.*

- ▶ By the end of 2007-08, the Province will have invested more than \$2.2 billion in school capital & maintenance projects across B.C., having built or approved:
  - ▶ 34 new schools
  - ▶ 278 replacements, additions, renovations and seismic upgrades.
- ▶ To strengthen capital planning, the province introduced three-year capital funding in 2003. For 2005-08, the province will invest \$700 million in 75 projects, including:
  - ▶ 47 new, expanded, renovated or replacement schools, in districts across B.C.
  - ▶ 16 site acquisitions for future school facilities in Surrey, Abbotsford, Mission and Sooke, as well as Nanaimo, Kelowna, Campbell River and Courtenay for school district 93 (Conseil scolaire francophone).
  - ▶ Seismic upgrades to 12 different schools in higher-risk earthquake areas.
- ▶ The province will also invest \$1.5 billion over the next 15 years to seismically upgrade 700 schools to ensure students are safe. Over the next three years, \$254 million will be invested to seismically upgrade 95 high-priority schools.

## Helping BC Become the Most Literate Location on the Continent

*The provincial government's goal is to make B.C. the most literate location in North America by 2010. To help meet this goal, the Province is providing tools for teachers, parents and students. The Province is:*

- ▶ Investing \$10 million in new textbooks for B.C. classrooms that will help school districts buy as many as 285,000 new textbooks.
- ▶ Improving computer literacy and access by investing \$1 million in computers for schools that will put 12,000 computers into B.C. schools.
- ▶ Increasing Internet access for rural students by upgrading nearly 600 schools around BC.
- ▶ Providing every Kindergarten student in the province with a book to encourage parents and their children to read together.
- ▶ Helping three-year-olds get ready for school with a \$3 million investment in a new program called Ready, Set, Learn.

# Bringing Out the Best for K-12 Students

## Improving Preparation for Higher Learning

To prepare high-school students for post-secondary pursuits, the province has:

- ▶ Introduced a new graduation program that will allow a wider range of courses to count toward graduation.
- ▶ Set new graduation requirements to increase student achievement and better prepare students for life after school.

## General Information on All Levels of Education in B.C.

### Achieve BC

(tools to help British Columbians reach their educational and career goals)

Victoria: 250 387-9649

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 514-0554

[www.achievebc.ca](http://www.achievebc.ca)

### Ministry of Education

[www.gov.bc.ca/bced](http://www.gov.bc.ca/bced)

### Ministry of Advanced Education

[www.gov.bc.ca/aved](http://www.gov.bc.ca/aved)

## Parent Satisfaction is Growing

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Education  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

**2004 PARENT / GUARDIAN SURVEY**

Please read the questions below and with a pencil or blue pen, fill in the circle (●) that corresponds to your answer.

1. Your child is in:  grade 3  grade 4  grade 5  grade 6  grade 7  grade 8  grade 9  grade 10  grade 11  grade 12

2. Are you satisfied with what your child is learning at school?  
ALL OF THE TIME  MOST OF THE TIME  SOME OF THE TIME  FEW TIMES  AT ALL  NOT AT ALL

3. Are you satisfied that staff treat all students fairly at school?  
ALL OF THE TIME  MOST OF THE TIME  SOME OF THE TIME  FEW TIMES  AT ALL  NOT AT ALL

In the 2004 school survey, 78% of parents indicated they're satisfied with what their child is learning – up from 76% in 2003.

## Useful Contacts and Links for K-12 Students

### Aboriginal Education

Victoria: 250 356-1891

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed)

### B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

Lower Mainland: 604 687-4433

[www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca)

### B.C. School Trustees Association

Lower Mainland: 604 734-2721

[www.bcsta.org](http://www.bcsta.org)

### Schools and District Information

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools)

### Graduation Requirements

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation)

### Provincial Scholarships and Awards

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards)

### Career Planning

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards)

## We want your input

We believe B.C. students deserve all the opportunities a first-rate education system affords.

Education is one of the best health-care initiatives, one of the most effective job-creation strategies, and one of the most important investments we can make in our children's future. That's why we're increasing resources and strengthening accountability for results.

I welcome your input, and invite you to contact me for more information on our measures to put students first.

Gordon Campbell  
Premier

E-mail your comments to: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)