SCHOOL DISTRICT 57

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS

WHY DO SCHOOL DISTRICTS NEED A BUDGET?

School districts put together a budget each year to pay for:

- Staff salaries and benefits (teachers, education assistants, tradespeople, administration, etc.)
- Supplies (books, computers, learning materials, custodial supplies, etc.)
- Student transportation (bussing to and from school)
- Utilities (heat, electricity, internet, phones)
- Maintenance of buildings and grounds
- Insurance, employee training and travel

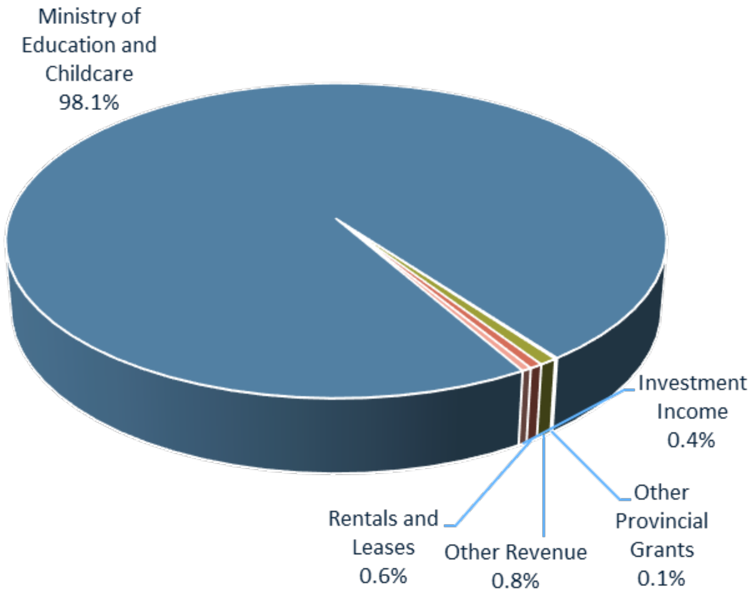
All school districts in BC are required by provincial law to pass an annual budget by June 30th each year and it must be a balanced budget.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 57

HOW ARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FUNDED?

Operating Grant

- The main source of funding for schools districts is an annual Operating Grant from the Ministry of Education and Childcare.
- The Operating Grant makes up 98% of SD57's operating revenue.
- The amount of the annual Operating Grant is mainly based on student enrolment (see next page), as well as other factors such as geographic location.



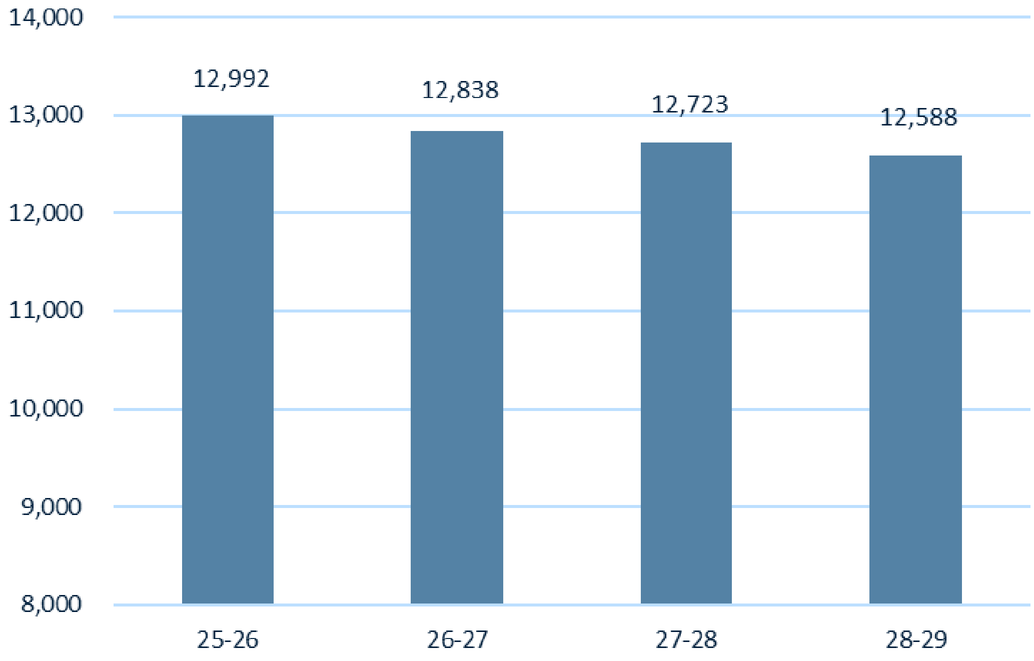
Other funding and revenue

Other sources of operating revenue for school districts include:

- Facility rental revenue
- Investment income
- International student fees
- Other grants

2026-2027 PROJECTED STUDENT ENROLMENT

- SD57 is projecting moderate decreases in student enrolment in the coming years.
- For 2026-2027, student enrolment is expected to decrease approximately 150 students, resulting in a projected $1.5 million decrease in the Operating grant.
- In spite of declining student enrollment, the number of students with unique needs is projected to increase, resulting in a projected $2.5 million increase in funding for unique student needs.



BUDGET PRIORITIES

The Board of Education's role is to make sure the annual budget supports District priorities.

Student success

- Supporting education programs with appropriate resources
- Programs and services to improve Indigenous student achievement
- Equitable access for students to resources and supports
- Supporting student well-being and readiness to learn

Strengthening our workforce

- Recruitment and retention
- Ensuring staff have resources and training to be successful

Sustainable operations

- Aligning spending with sustainable revenue sources
- Improving operational efficiency
- Maintaining school facilities
- Planning for long-term capital renewal and lifecycle replacement
- Maintaining a contingency reserve to manage unforeseen costs without disrupting learning

SCHOOL DISTRICT 57

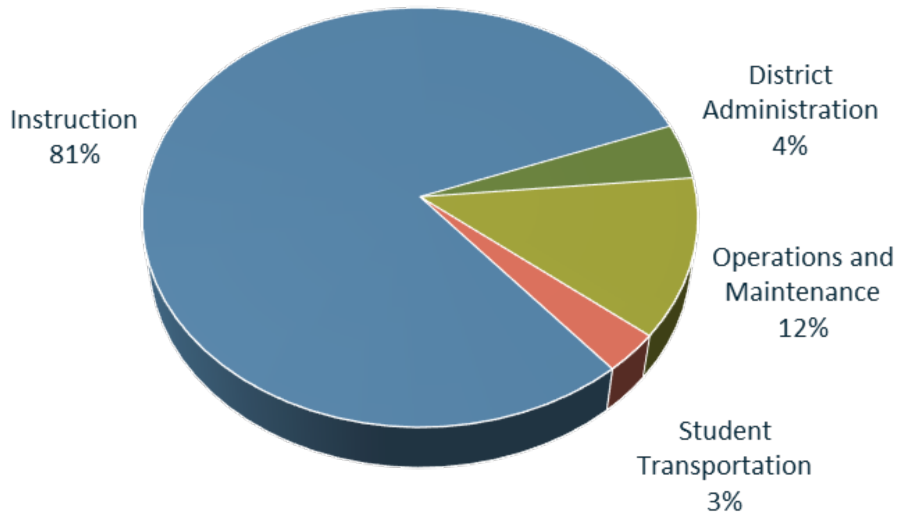
WHO DECIDES HOW FUNDING IS SPENT?

- Financial planning is guided by the District’s strategic plan, the Framework for Enhanced Student Learning report, collective agreement requirements around staffing levels (class size and student to teacher ratio limits), Board policies and provincial law (School Act).
- Rightsholders, students, staff, parents and caregivers, and partner groups are invited to provide feedback regarding their funding priorities each year.
- With the guidelines and feedback, district staff develop an annual budget of projected revenue (funding grants) and spending (by schools and departments).
- The Board of Education reviews the feedback and the draft budget and votes on whether to accept the draft budget as the budget for the year, or to ask staff to make changes to the budget.

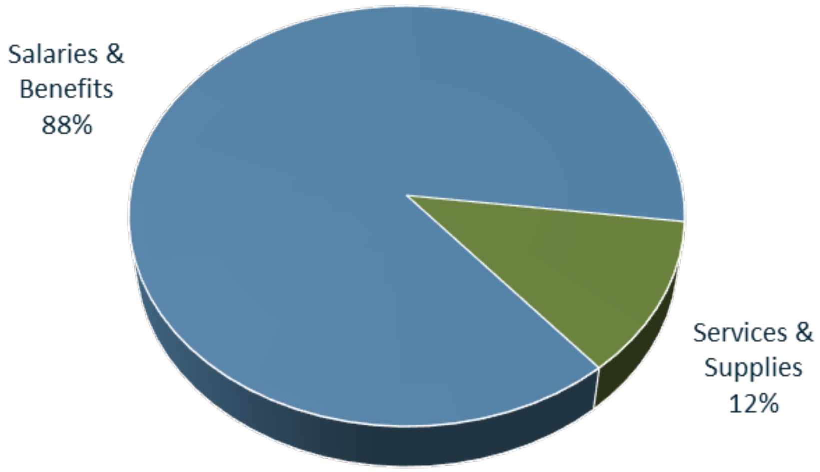
SCHOOL DISTRICT 57

THIS WAS HOW SD57 FUNDING FOR OPERATIONS WAS SPENT IN 2024-2025

Categorized by Function



Categorized by Expense Type



HOW DO DISTRICTS BUDGET FOR DECLINING ENROLMENT AND RISING COSTS?

- Declining enrollment results in reduced funding, requiring reductions in spending.
- Wages and benefits costs for all district employees are the largest expenses for districts, representing 88% of operating expenses in SD57. Salaries and benefits are negotiated at the provincial level for unionized staff (teachers and CUPE members), and some staffing levels are mandated under collective agreements.
- In recent years, Ministry funding rates have increased only for labour cost increases. Inflationary cost pressures on services and supplies have not been funded.
- Current economic conditions, declining enrollment and funding pressures create budget risk and uncertainty. Mitigating this risk requires districts to maintain contingency reserves to manage short-term unforeseen costs without disrupting learning.
- Funding pressures and rising costs may require districts to include spending reductions in their budget planning.

We want to hear from you!

- Take the survey: SD57 2026-2027 Budget Survey
- Send a message to budget@sd57.bc.ca