

Provincial Budget 2026

The Government of Saskatchewan released its 2026 Budget on March 18. Disappointingly, this year's budget is a step backwards and reverses some of the progress made towards restoring per-student funding. The overall increase of 2.6 percent will actually result in cuts, as it is not enough to cover the government's projected inflation and increased student enrolment.

President's Response



STF President Samantha Becotte speaking to media following provincial budget announcement.

"Budget 2026 does not address the continued challenges students and teachers face in Saskatchewan schools each day," says Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation President Samantha Becotte. "Despite recent progress towards improving per-student spending over the last few years, this budget is a step backwards. A stronger Saskatchewan depends on having properly funded public schools today."

Read more from the STF's Budget Day response at www.stf.sk.ca.

By the Numbers Operating Funding to School Divisions

- Total provincial operating funding:
\$2.47 billion
- Year-over-year dollar change:
\$62.2 million
- Percentage increase:
2.6%

A 2.6 percent increase is not enough to cover the cost of inflation and predicted student enrolment increase. The Government of Saskatchewan projects student enrolment to grow by 700 students and inflation to be 2.3 percent; experts anticipate inflation may exceed 2.5 percent. Combined, these two factors will result in an effective cut.



Per-Student Funding 2026-27



Projected provincial funding per student in 2026-27: **\$12,311**.

When adjusting for inflation (assuming 2.5 percent in 2026) and factoring in government's projected enrolment growth (+700 students), this represents **\$33 less per student** in 2026-27 compared to 2025-26.

Students in 2026-27 will receive **\$1,554 less** than students did in 2015-16.

Funding for Additional Special Support Classrooms

Budget 2026 includes a commitment to expand the government's special support classroom initiatives by an additional 50 classrooms, bringing the total to 108.

Alongside classroom complexity teachers, special support classrooms are having a positive impact on Saskatchewan schools.

However, without adequate additional funding for this initiative, school divisions will be forced to cut supports elsewhere.

Specialized Support Classrooms Versus Class Complexity Teachers

Special support classrooms and class complexity teachers have complementary objectives. They have a common objective of providing additional supports for students but are not the same.

Specialized Support Classrooms

- Government pilot project initially announced in January 2024 with the goal of "helping staff manage and de-escalate behaviour."
- Staffed by a minimum of one teacher and two educational assistants; may use other supports like psychologists and counsellors.
- Capacity for 15 students.
- This funding is not guaranteed but is provided at the government's discretion.

Class Complexity Teachers

- Awarded in arbitration and included in the 2023-2026 Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement under the new Article 17, Class Complexity.
- Does not have a regular classroom-teaching assignment and provides one-on-one behavioural/safety interventions and programming to address specialized needs of students.
- Schools with a student population of 75 to 149 students each have a 0.5 FTE class complexity teacher; schools with a student population greater than 150 have a 1.0 FTE class complexity teacher.
- This funding is guaranteed and legally required as it is in the 2023-2026 Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement.