

## Provincial Budget 2025-26

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation recognizes that Budget 2025-26 reflects the government's Throne Speech commitments to start responding to the underfunding crisis in public schools.

"This is another step in the right direction," says STF President Samantha Becotte. "In last fall's election, the STF asked parties to invest in public education and called for per-student funding to be restored. We know a decade of cuts can't be addressed with one budget. We are cautiously optimistic this will be the start of continued investments in public education with predictable, sustainable funding that meets the needs of a growing student population."

### Per-Student Funding

The funding announced by Finance Minister Jim Reiter in the March 19 budget speech represents some progress toward a restored level of per-student funding.

Per-student funding in 2025-26 is forecast to be \$11,691 based on government assumptions of a two percent rate of inflation and a one percent growth in enrolment. This is approximately \$600 more per student when compared to 2024-25 and about \$1,100 more than two years ago.

There is still a significant per-student funding gap compared to 2012-13. When adjusted for inflation, that gap means current Grade 12 students are funded by approximately \$1,855 less than when they began kindergarten. Fully restoring per-student funding to 2012-13 levels would have required an additional investment of \$375 million in 2025-26.



### Budget Addresses New Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement

On budget day and in subsequent conversations, the Federation has been assured by the Minister of Education and senior officials that the government is fully funding costs associated with the new Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement. That represents a total of \$130 million, with \$60 million directed to teacher salaries and a further \$70 million to address class complexity.

Appearing on CBC Blue Sky the day following budget presentation, Samantha Becotte shared that the deputy minister provided confirmation that increases for 2023-24 and 2024-25 in the collective bargaining agreement have already been built into previous provincial budgets. "There are additional funds to address next year's increases from the Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement, but there was already some planning done before this year to ensure that the contract will be fully funded – which is something that we heard on the floor of the legislature yesterday, as well."

Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions have not yet received individual funding details from the Ministry of Education, as the sector waits for language within the new PCBA to be finalized.

## By the Numbers

School divisions will receive a combined **\$2.41 billion** in operating funding for the 2025-26 school year, an increase of \$186.4 million or 8.4 percent, according to the government [news release](#). Operating funding includes everything required to deliver learning to students, from salaries and supplies to textbooks and transportation. It does not include funding for capital projects.

The [Saskatchewan School Boards Association says](#) that while the budget doesn't fully address the funding gap, it shouldn't result in boards falling further behind. Funding that recognizes enrolment growth, inflation and collectively bargained agreements means school boards likely won't be facing cuts.

## The Impact of Your Solidarity

This government's various commitments to education since its re-election last fall would not have happened without the collective efforts of teachers, families and supporters over the past two years, ensuring that the public understood the crisis in education. We spoke with one voice and made education a key election issue last fall. Increases in public education funding are a direct response to what teachers and voters told government.

Last November's Throne Speech promised expansion of the specialized support classrooms pilot and a commitment to begin addressing the challenges raised by teachers and families. Those pledges were reflected in the budget announcement, along with a focus on helping students read at grade level by the time they complete Grade 3. The province has also recently signed on to the [National School Food Program](#). Simply, most of this would not have happened without STF members and supporters.

## 'There is Still More Work to Do'

These are positive steps, but investing in education is always a political choice, not an economic one, and the Federation will continue pushing government to keep students and schools a priority. As Minister Reiter stated, Saskatchewan's economy is well positioned and its ["fiscal situation is among the best in Canada"](#).

"There is still more work to do, and teachers are committed to working collaboratively with government to ensure the best outcomes for students," says Becotte. "The number of professional supports in schools is still down, and \$2 million for reading supports won't go far when distributed across all the school divisions. Students are struggling with mental health. While there is an increase to the Mental Health Capacity Building initiative, this places more work on teachers and school staff, and we need trained mental health counsellors."

The STF will continue to advocate for a well-funded PreK to Grade 12 public education system and will work with government, parents and other education partners to ensure students have a high-quality public education.

### Budget 2025-26 includes:

- **\$130 million** to fund a new teacher collective agreement and address class complexity.
- **\$54.4 million** to fund 50 of the 200 Specialized Support Classrooms promised over the next four years (assuming one teacher and two EAs per classroom), along with non-teacher salary increases, transportation and inflation.
- **\$2 million** toward improving kindergarten to Grade 3 reading levels.
- **\$4.6 million**, an increase of \$1.6 million, to expand the Mental Health Capacity Building initiative to more schools.