

NEWS RELEASE

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2020-21 Education Budget Falls Short

SASKATOON – Despite an increase in education funding confirmed today, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation says Saskatchewan's 2020-21 budget does not provide enough funding to maintain existing resources.

“Without accounting for increased costs related to COVID-19, we are already hearing of several school divisions deliberating where to reduce costs to address shortfalls,” said Patrick Maze, President of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. “In a time when enhanced cleaning will be necessary to keep students and staff healthy, no division should be in the position of having to consider cutting caretaker resources.”

The Federation says the challenges created by lack of resources, including complex classes did not disappear with the move to remote learning.

“Teachers have done a remarkable job shifting to emergency remote learning, but without enough of the right resources, students will pay the price,” said Maze. “Emergency remote learning has only made the inequities more evident. Teachers need to be supported and students need access to resources in order to succeed.”

The Federation expects funding to be attached to the education guidelines government issues so the health of students and staff is protected through appropriate cleaning, social distancing and other precautions without further reducing educational resources for students.

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