

news release

For Immediate Release
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CBE balances tough 2013-14 budget

CALGARY—The Calgary Board of Education will balance its 2013-14 budget in spite of a \$62-million shortfall.

The operating budget will be published today and presented to the Board of Trustees for information on Tuesday at a public meeting. A full debate of the budget will happen on May 28.

While the operating budget directs as much funding as possible to classrooms, it will be impossible to maintain the level of service in many areas of the organization. Severe cuts to administration were required.

Unfortunately, with consecutive years of provincial funding reductions, it is also impossible to continue to make cuts without negative impacts on students, parents, classrooms, staff, programs and services.

“Minimizing the impact on students and parents remains a top priority,” says Naomi Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools, “but these are difficult financial times and there will be a huge impact on services and programs.”

The CBE kept its commitment to keep transportation fees flat and absorb fuel contingency fund reductions by the province. Noon supervision fees will also be generally maintained. Programs and supports to meet the needs of students who are English language learners will also continue, in spite of provincial funding reductions.

Other key budget highlights include:

- Maintain instructional supplies and materials (ISM) at current rates.
- Maintain the kindergarten to Grade 3 current average class size—where class-size funding continues.
- In spite of an overall RAM-rate increase of two per cent for 2013-14, schools will have an average of 2.1 per cent less funding than they require.
- The administration block is reduced by \$4.6 million from the previous year. This means that the portion of the entire operating budget spent on administration is effectively reduced from 2.8 per cent in 2012-13—well under the limit set by the province.
- The use of one-time funding sources and depletion of all available reserves, totalling \$15.3 million.



The provincial government mandates, by law, that school boards run balanced budgets.

The CBE will hold a community consultation session on the budget on May 21.

[Budget timelines](#)

- May 28 Proposed operating budget submitted by administration to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- May 31 Operating budget, approved by the CBE Board of Trustees is submitted to Alberta Education.

[2013-14 proposed operating budget](#) (pdf)

For previous budget messages, go to our 2013-14 budget page. Chief Financial Officer Deborah Meyers will be available between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Please contact media relations to schedule an interview.

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