



At the May 28, 2025, public Board meeting, the Board of Trustees of Sturgeon Public School Division approved the 2025–2026 Budget which reflects, amongst other things, the Board's commitment to fiscal responsibility, educational excellence and the alignment of financial planning with the Board's stated goals and objectives in its Mission, Vision and Values and Education Plan Goals.

Background

Following the release of Alberta Education's March 25, 2025, Funding Manual and Funding Profile, the Division undertook a detailed review to assess the implications for students, staff and operations.

The Division saw a \$1.4M reduction in its Stabilization Grant, which is expected to be completely removed by 2027-2028. The reduction in Stabilization Funding was noted in previous Budget Letters ([Budget 2024-2025](#), [Budget 2023-2024](#), [Budget 2022-2023](#)).

This reduction was partially offset by a 2.32% increase in Services and Supports Grants. This left the Division with an overall funding reduction of \$0.7M on its Jurisdiction Profile for the upcoming school year. The Division is disappointed that it did not see a funding rate increase to offset the large expense costs.

The Division also lost the following Funding Sources for the 2025-2026 school year:

- \$1.7M in Jordan's Principle Funding (which was estimated to be \$2.2M in budget 2025-2026)
- \$0.6M over two years for Mental Health In Schools (MHIN) Pilot projects
- \$0.2M in investment Income

Some of these funding items, such as Mental Health in school, were offset by the introduction of new grants, but funding was provided at a fraction of the amount previously received.

The Division experienced a reprieve from the carbon tax elimination. (If the tax were to return, it would result in an approximate additional \$0.25M in costs on utilities).

In addition to the funding losses, the Division anticipates cost increases that include the following areas:

- Unfunded Labour Settlement Agreements,
- Benefits,
- Inflation,
- Software Increase,
- Construction costs, and
- Potential Tariffs.

These are only some of the examples of cost pressures the Division is experiencing. There is growing concern about the lack of funding to help offset these pressures.

The combination of all these factors led to a fiscally challenging 2025-2026 school year budget, which in turn led to staffing and service reductions. The Division has done its best to maintain services and programming where possible. However, balancing the budget with educational needs required a shift in many instances in how those services and programs are offered. Again, the Board must also maintain fiscal responsibility to operate within the resources provided. (As background information, this situation is not uncommon across the province.) **Despite funding reductions, the Division remains committed to maintaining its standard of excellence in its provision of educational programming and services within its budgetary parameters.**



**Sturgeon
Public Schools**

Board
MESSAGE

Budget 2025-2026 - May 29, 2025

Additional relief may still be provided through pending funding decisions, including Federal Nutrition Funding and the Specialized Education Program (SEP) application.

The School Division's Three-year Education Plan requires resources to be directed toward achieving the goals of Empowered Student Learning, Future Readiness and Healthy School Communities.

The Division serves a diverse and expansive region with unique socio-economic and geographic considerations. As a public school division, we are committed to welcoming and educating all resident students.

Again, despite financial constraints, the Division remains committed to providing essential supports and services such as Pre-Kindergarten, S.H.I.N.E., MHCB, CASA, Mental Health programming and school-based Social Workers. Additionally, in alignment with goals outlined in the Education Plan, increased attention is being placed on literacy and numeracy supports across the Division.

We wish to emphasize that our Division is fortunate to have exceptional staff across all our schools and departments. Even within the context of challenging budgets, the dedication of our employees to the success and well-being of our students is outstanding. We are grateful that Division employees continue to provide first-rate student learning opportunities.

The Province's Monitoring of School Board Budgets

All school board budgets in Alberta are subject to extensive monitoring by Alberta Education.

The Province of Alberta's K-12 provincial funding to school authorities is transparent and posted online. The province posts K-12 education financial statements, summary reports and school authority audited financial statements:

<https://www.alberta.ca/k-12-funding>. The Division is also bound by accounting standards set by the Province of Alberta and is audited annually.

Our Division is also transparent in relation to its budget. Financial statements may be found on the Division's [website](#).

Approval of Pre-Planning and Design Funding

We are pleased to share that the Division was awarded Pre-Planning Funding for a K-9 Replacement school in Gibbons and Design Funding for a K-6 replacement school for Morinville Public.

Our Collegiate School Application

We are thrilled that our Collegiate School application has been officially approved by the Minister of Education and Childcare. The Collegiate will offer students specialized pathways in Aviation and Skilled Trades, equipping them with industry-relevant skills and knowledge to support future success in high-demand fields. The approval of this application reflects the Division's continued commitment to innovative, career-focused learning opportunities that respond to the needs of both students and Alberta's workforce.

I hope this information provides clarity.

Sincerely,

Tasha Oatway-McLay
Board Chair, Sturgeon Public Schools



OUR VISION

Sturgeon Public School Division:
where, through a well-rounded
education, students are motivated
and supported to pursue their unique
path to future success.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Enrolments - Headcount

<u>Program</u>	<u>2025/2026</u> (Estimated)	<u>2024/2025</u> (Actual)
Pre K to 12	5,223	5,182
Alexander First Nation	31	31
Home Education	15	15
Total	5,269	5,228

Environmental Scan Information

<u>Staffing</u>	<u>25/26 Division</u>	<u>Provincial Avg.</u>
Certificated	290 FTE	281 FTE
Education Assistants	110 FTE	96 FTE
Other Instructional Staff	94 FTE	54 FTE

*Based on 2024/25 provincial staffing, adjusted to Sturgeon's enrolment size

FINANCIALS

- **Revenues:** Decreased by **\$1.5 million** due to lower funding from Alberta Education & the Federal Government for Jordan's Principle
- **Expenditures:** Decreased by **\$1.9 million** due to lower revenues and lower reserves available for operational use
- **Net Deficit Budget:** - **\$0.8 million** (\$1.2M in 2024/2025)

- The Division has not been approved for Federal Funding for Jordan's Principle supports (the status of this Federal Funding remains unknown), which represents a loss of \$1.7M in funding from 2024/2025 and \$2.2M was estimated for 2025/2026.
- The Division saw a \$1.4M reduction in its Stabilization Grant, which is expected to be completely removed by 2027-2028.
- Sturgeon Public Schools Mental Health in Schools (MHIN) Two Year Pilot Project has come to an end. Funding was provided for \$0.6M over two years. This has been replaced by a new Mental Health grant, but the Division will only see \$0.17M for the 2025/2026 school year.

- The Division saw a 2.32% increase in Supports & Services Funding (\$0.6M).
- The Division is still waiting for funding announcements on:
 - Federal Nutrition Funding
 - Specialized Education Program (SEP) Application
- Although it may look different, the Division is still offering
 - Pre-Kindergarten Programming
 - S.H.I.N.E Programming
 - C.A.S.A Programming
 - Mental Health (HYPE/MHCB) & Social Worker Supports in schools

2025 / 2026

EDUCATION FUNDING AT A GLANCE

Where Does the Funding Come From?

Education funding in Alberta comes from the provincial government.

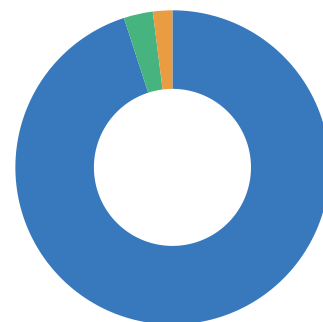
Primarily based on student count, which is based on Adjusted Enrolment Method (**AEM**) over Two Years. The Division then distributes the funding to schools based on the number of students enrolled, learning needs and other factors in its allocation model.

Government Of Alberta (95%)

Fees (3%)

Other Sources (2%)

- Federal Government
- Donations & Fundraising
- Investments
- Sales of services



How is Alberta's Grant Funding Allocated?

13%

Operations & Maintenance

- school building maintenance and repairs
- utility costs
- insurance
- custodial services

7%

Student Transportation

- funding to transport students to school

4%

System Administration

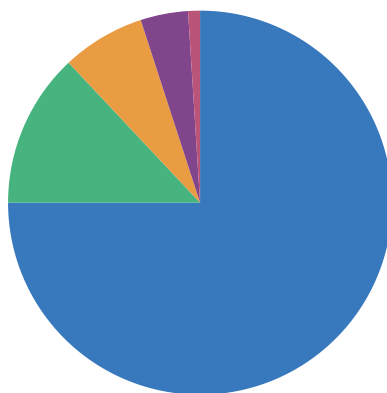
(Allocation is set and defined by the Government)

- administration includes costs associated with the operations of the Division, such as software licenses, and legal and financial services
- Board of Trustees and related expenses

75%

Instruction

- salaries of school staff, including teachers, support staff and administration
- supplies and materials for teaching
- all other supports for the classroom



1%

External Services

(Expenses Offset by Revenue)

- school cafeteria
- community use of schools
- continuing education programs

What is the Funding Spent on?

\$17M (22%)

Services, Contracts and Supplies

- 33% Contracted Transportation Services
- 27% School Generated Funds & School Supports
- 20% Operations and Maintenance
- 4% Software Licenses to support in class learning
- 4% Other Items such as supplies, equipment and contracted student supports

\$57M (72%)

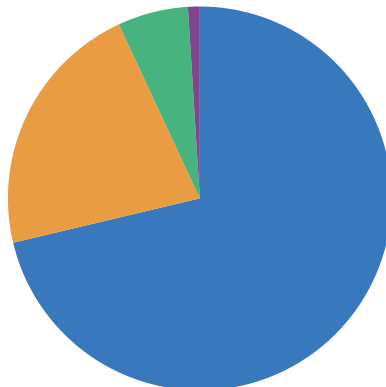
Salaries & Benefits

- \$45M is spent on Salaries
- \$12M is spent on Benefits
- \$1.3M of the \$57M is spent on staff leaves

\$5M (6%)

Amortization

- \$4M Supported has matching revenue
- \$1M Unsupported, required to replace capital assets such as buses and buildings



\$0.1M (>1%)

Other Interest and Financial Charges