

Budget breakdown

The Alberta government is giving Edmonton Public Schools more money for 2024–25—**so why is there a funding gap?**

Like many Albertans, Edmonton Public Schools is feeling the pinch as expenses continue to rise. Several factors are putting our budgets under pressure:

- in 2020, the Alberta government changed how it funds school divisions,
- student enrolment continues to skyrocket, and
- inflation takes a bigger bite from the budget each year.

Alberta’s funding formula

In 2020, the provincial government introduced a new funding model, which uses what’s called a **Weighted Moving Average (WMA)** to figure out how much money we receive. We used to be funded for each student enrolled. Now, the WMA looks at student numbers over a three-year period to calculate funding. That means that a growing school division like ours is never funded for the actual number of students we serve.

A [Fraser Institute study](#) of education spending in Canada shows that Alberta and Saskatchewan were the only two provinces that decreased their per-student spending between 2012 and 2021.

In 2012–13, Alberta had the third highest per-student spending of the provinces.

Nine years later, Alberta ranked last.

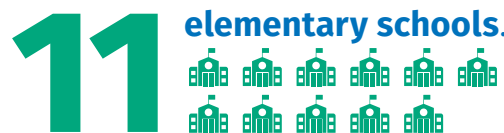


WMA funding formula breakdown

20,900	20% of 104,501 students (actual) from 2022–23
+	
33,000	30% of 110,002 students (estimated) from 2023–24
+	
57,903	50% of 115,805 students (projected) from 2024–25
=	
111,803	WMA student FTE* enrolment funding for 2024–25

This means **we won’t be funded** for **4,002** of the **115,805** students we expect to serve in 2024–25.

That’s enough students to fill about **11 elementary schools.**



*Students enrolled in an early childhood services program (e.g. Kindergarten and pre-Kindergarten) are counted as 0.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) in Division enrolment numbers.

Enrolment increases

While education funding has increased overall, it's not keeping up with enrolment.

We're growing at a rate not seen in almost 60 years!

2024–25 student enrolment budget comparison

Current funding

\$1.168 billion for
111,803 students.

That is a budget funding increase of

4.6%

If all students were funded

\$1.210 billion for
an actual enrolment of
115,805 students.

That is a budget funding increase of

8.3%

2023



Edmonton Public Schools has added

35,265
students over
13 years.



2010

Inflation pressures

Every year, inflation takes a bigger bite from our budgets. Like many families, school divisions are paying more for fixed costs.

Since 2020, inflation in the Edmonton area has increased by

20.7%

In **2024–25**, compared with what we spent five years ago, we expect to pay:



128.9%
more for
insurance



70.3%
more for
water & sewer



64.5%
more for
electricity



58.8%
more for
natural gas



Inflation is a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money.

Inflation projections are calculated based on information from Statistics Canada and the Bank of Canada.

Reach out to your Trustee if you have questions or to discuss the budget. Visit epsb.ca/ourdistrict/budget for more information.

 EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS