



June 21, 2022

Saskatoon Public School Board Passes 2023-24 Budget

The Saskatoon Public Schools (SPS) Board of Education has approved its operating budget for the 2023-24 school year.

The March 22, 2023 provincial budget increased Saskatoon Public Schools' operating funding by 1.1% or \$2.8 million, with an operating grant of \$256 million compared to \$253.2 million in 2022-23. On June 1, 2023, additional funding of \$40.0 million was announced for school divisions across the province. Saskatoon Public Schools' share is potentially as high as \$8.0 million dollars with \$2.7 million allocated to address class size and complexity and up to \$5.3 million allocated to enrolment growth depending on the number of students registered in the fall.

"We're appreciative of the additional funding we've received," said Board Chair Colleen MacPherson. "That said, there is still chronic underfunding pressures throughout the division we will need to address but the focus of this budget is directly supporting classrooms where the resources are needed most."

The school division will still have to make reductions and increase some fees in order to submit a balanced budget as required by legislation. However, the additional funding means the school division can hire more classroom teachers, resource teachers, English as an Additional Language (EAL) teachers and educational assistants, and most importantly, not increase class sizes.

"The school division is expecting an additional 1,036 students in September 2023, which means our total enrolment will top 28,000," said MacPherson. "We are excited to welcome so many new students but with increased enrolment comes increased pressures so we've chosen to invest every additional dollar at the classroom level to better support our students and staff."

The 2023-24 budget additions include:

- The addition of 22 elementary teachers and 13 secondary teachers to support enrolment growth
- 13.0 FTE educational assistants
- 5.0 FTE elementary resource teachers
- 3.5 FTE English as an Additional Language (EAL) teachers
- Two elementary Functional Life Skills programs and one secondary Functional Life Skills program
- An increase to the Saskatoon International Education program budget
- 0.5 FTE accounting technician
- 0.5 FTE coordinator of nature-based learning
- 1.0 FTE equity consultant
- Funding for a staff computer refresh, wired network replacement and back-up systems.

The 2023-24 budget reductions and fees include:

- The introduction of a lunch supervision fee of \$50 per student per year in secondary schools similar to the elementary fee established last year. The elementary lunch supervision fee remains unchanged at \$100 per student per year to a maximum of \$200 per family (The school division compensates staff for providing this service.)
- Recovering a portion of our costs for early learning centre spaces in schools
- Rental rate increases for after hour school gym rentals

- Transportation efficiencies
- The Alternate Education Transition program at Central Office will be dissolved. These students have met graduation requirements and have the opportunity to upgrade two classes for free, similar to any other student who has graduated from Saskatoon Public Schools.
- Reduced complement of teacher librarians from 6.75 FTE to 3.0 FTE who will support schools using a centralized model
- Elimination of post-pandemic outreach workers and learning support teachers as the one-time funding has been spent.

Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in Saskatchewan with more than 27,000 students, 3,300 professional and support staff in 47 elementary schools, 10 collegiates, one k-12 school, one associate school and one alliance school. Learn more at www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca

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