

BACKGROUNDER – EDUCATION FUNDING MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENT

Currently, school division funding is allocated on government budget day when enrolments for the upcoming year are unknown. Over the last two decades, enrolments have largely been in a state of decline across the province. Using prior-year enrolments was advantageous to school divisions in that it allowed for a period of adjustment to lower levels of funding.

In response to reports from some school divisions regarding unprecedented enrolment growth in the 2012-13 school year, the Ministry of Education assessed enrolment changes experienced by all school divisions between September 2011 and September 2012.

Saskatoon, Martensville and Warman communities represent more than 50% of the total provincial enrolment growth of almost 2300 students.

From this, the ministry developed a method to consider significant enrolment growth. This method involves an assessment of growth using two filters that consider enrolment increases at both the school division and individual school level.

Mid-year funding details for each of the eligible school divisions are set out below:

School Division	Mid-Year Adjustment Funding (\$000s)
Lloydminster RCSSD 89	146.3
Prairie Spirit SD 206	659.6
Prairie Valley SD 208	547.5
Regina RCSSD 81	561.4
Saskatoon SD 13	2,605.2
South East Cornerstone SD 209	174.7
St. Paul's RCSSD 20	1,752.9
Sun West SD 207	194.0
TOTAL	\$6,641.6

Eligibility criteria

- An increase of 40 full time equivalent students at school division and 1.0% overall.
- An increase of 30 at individual school and average of 2.5 full time equivalent students per grade.

This scenario provides funding for base instruction, supports for learning, instructional resources and transportation. The majority of the operating funding provided to boards of education is unconditional. Mid-year adjustment funding is also unconditional, and the ministry expects that boards will make decisions in a way that best addresses the needs associated with significant enrolment growth.

School divisions seeing enrolment decreases will not see a mid-year adjustment as those divisions that may still be experiencing declines could find it difficult to adjust to mid-year funding decreases.