

2018-19 Ministry of Education Budget Backgrounder

Prekindergarten to Grade 12

- Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive \$1.87 billion in school operating funding for the 2018-19 school year. This is an increase of \$30 million, or 1.6 per cent, to operating funding over last school year.
- Prekindergarten programs remain consistent at 316 programs serving more than 5,000 three- and four-year olds, for a total funding amount of \$20.5 million.
- \$9.6 million for operating grants for qualified independent schools and historical high schools, an increase of \$367,000, due to increased enrolment.
- Elimination of the General Proficiency Award program which provided awards of \$400 to 500 Saskatchewan graduates, for a total of \$200,000.

Early Years and Child Care

- \$76.8 million for child care funding, which includes \$20.8 million in new funding provided by the federal government through the *Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*. This will allow for the continued support of more than 16,000 licensed child care spaces and allow for the addition of 2,500 licensed child care spaces by 2020.
- \$15.5 million in continued funding for *KidsFirst*.
- Early Childhood Intervention Programs funding remain unchanged at \$3.9 million.
- \$2.3 million in continued funding for nutrition programs.

Infrastructure:

- \$76.4 million for capital investments including:
 - \$22.7 million to provide funding for two ongoing major school consolidation projects in Rosthern and Weyburn;
 - \$49.6 million for preventative maintenance, renewal and emergency funding, a 14.8 per cent increase over last year's investment;
 - \$3.1 million for relocatable classrooms; and,
 - \$1 million for school facility assessments.

Libraries and Literacy

- \$11.1 million in continued operating funding for libraries including:
 - \$6 million in operating funding for the seven regional library systems;
 - \$974,000 in operating funding for Pahkisimon Nuyeḗáh in Northern Saskatchewan;
 - \$1.3 million for municipal libraries in Regina and Saskatoon; and,
 - \$2.8 million to support universal access to library services, and for infrastructure including internet connectivity and the Single Integrated Library System.

- \$1.5 million in continued funding to support Saskatchewan’s literacy programs, including:
 - \$537,000 to the network of Family Literacy Hubs;
 - \$500,000 to continue the Saskatchewan Community Literacy grant program; and
 - \$500,000 to continue to support the provision of 20 summer literacy camps in eight school divisions.

Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People

- \$5.1 million in ongoing funding in response to the Joint Task Force for the following initiatives:
 - \$2.4 million to continue the Invitational Shared Services Initiative;
 - \$1.6 million continued support of *Following Their Voices* (First Nations and Métis Student Achievement Initiative);
 - \$1 million to support *Help Me Tell My Story* and *Help Me Talk About Math*; and,
 - \$100,000 for Microsoft Software Licensing.

Teachers’ Pension and Benefits

- \$418.9 million for the Teachers’ Pension (Statutory) and benefits (Statutory and CBA), a decrease of \$104,000 or 0.02 per cent. This includes:
 - \$383.2 million in statutory funding requirements for the two pension plans, the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Retirement Plan and the Teachers’ Superannuation Plan, and the Teachers’ Group Life Insurance, a decrease of \$1 million or 0.3 per cent;
 - \$34.4 million in bargained benefits to teachers for dental and extended health, an increase of 2.5 per cent or \$840,000; and,
 - \$1.3 million in operation costs for the Teachers’ Superannuation Commission, an increase of \$93,000 or 7.8 per cent.