



# Funding public education in Ontario

Each year, the Ministry of Education provides school boards with **Core Education Funding** designed to deliver publicly funded education throughout the province. This funding recognizes the unique needs of students, educators, and schools to provide an enriched education experience from kindergarten to Grade 12 to equip students with real-life job skills to succeed in and outside of the classroom.

Funding enables schools to operate across all school boards and ensures the needs of students are top of mind. This means that funding not only supports student achievement but also the well-being of students, special education, mental health and school safety.

It's also important to note that the amount of funding school boards receive is based on information reported to the ministry such as the number of students enrolled. School boards have some flexibility to spend funding according to the needs of their local schools and programs. And finally, with changes under the recent *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*, new standards have been set for how school boards are required to report how the funding is spent for greater transparency and accountability.

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**2024-2025  
school year**



Education funding is expected to be a historic \$29 billion.

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Ontario 

## How funding is allocated

Core Education Funding consists of the following six funds:

- 1. Classroom Staffing Fund** – supports teachers and early childhood educators.
- 2. Learning Resources Fund** – supports the costs of staffing typically required outside of the classroom as well as costs for classroom learning materials and equipment. It also supports:
  - the mental health and wellness of students
  - staff and programs to help students facing barriers to success
  - academic success and well-being of Indigenous students
  - inclusive education, student well-being, student safety as well as other priorities and programs.
- 3. Special Education Fund** – supports positive outcomes for students with special needs who may require additional programs, services and/or equipment. This is the primary source of funding for educational assistants.
- 4. School Facilities Fund** – supports the operations, maintenance, renovations and renewal of school buildings and additional support for students in rural and northern communities.
- 5. Student Transportation Fund** – supports transportation of students between home and school.
- 6. School Board Administration Fund** – supports trustees and administration costs to operate school boards as well as for parent engagement activities.

Rounding out **Core Education Funding**, there is also funding through **Responsive Education Programs** meant to support emerging needs focused on student achievement. For example, more math and literacy educators, as well as early reading screening for all students between senior kindergarten and Grade 2 who will benefit from extra support. Ontario is building, expanding and renewing schools more quickly across the province through improvements to **Capital Funding**.

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