

Budget 2027 Written Submission

BC Association of School Business Officials

Introduction

The British Columbia Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO) is a member-driven organization representing business officials in BC's public school system. BCASBO provides professional learning, leadership, and timely advice on emerging K-12 business issues affecting school districts across the province.

Recommendation 1

That operating funding to school districts fully reflect annual inflationary costs so that existing K-12 programs can be sustained in future years.

Recommendation 1 Explanation

In February 2026, BCASBO published the information report Responsiveness of Provincial Funding to Cost Pressures in BC School Districts. The report identified that BC school districts are facing growing financial pressures because the cost of delivering K-12 programs is rising faster than provincial funding.

Funding rate adjustments do not cover all inflationary pressures, including rising costs for employee benefits, technology, facility maintenance, equipment, services, and supplies. School districts have limited flexibility to absorb these unfunded costs without making budget reductions that negatively affect programs. Historically, enrolment growth has helped offset inflationary pressures, but provincial enrolment is stabilizing and expected to decline, reducing this buffer. While targeted funding has grown significantly in recent years, it cannot be used to address core program cost pressures.

As a result, most districts had to implement program spending reductions in 2025/26 due to unfunded inflationary pressures and expect further reductions will be necessary in future years. Legislative and collective agreement obligations limit options for reductions, often forcing Boards to reduce in priority areas that respond to local student needs.

These reductions are impacting classroom and student supports, including teacher positions, educational assistant positions, other student support positions, custodial services, technology budgets, educational resources, and professional development for staff. Fiscal constraints are also impeding districts' ability to address operational risks, including cybersecurity vulnerabilities and deferred facility maintenance.

Recommendation 2

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Recommendation 2 Explanation

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Recommendation 3

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Recommendation 3 Explanation

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Organization Information

Completed on behalf of an organization?	Yes
Organization Name	BC Association of School Business Officials
How did you hear about the consultation?	Legislative Assembly consultation portal