

Education Budget 2007-2008

The 2007-2008 Education operating budget is \$247,135,000. This is 16.7 million or 7.3 per cent more than last year's budget of \$230,423,500.

The Education capital budget for 2007-2008 is \$13.1 million. This includes 10.6 M for new school construction, 1 M for capital upgrades and \$1.5 M for 21 new school buses.

Following are highlights of some of the new initiatives contained in the operating budget:

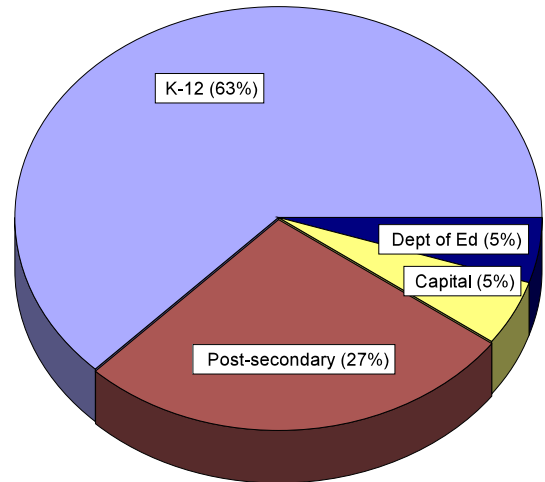
Kindergarten to Grade 12

Kindergarten funding will increase by \$220,000.

Progress to improve student achievement will continue with \$3 million to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Student Achievement. Some of these initiatives include:

- 3 more Early Literacy Coaches to work with schools on early literacy
- \$150,000 for Grade 2 classroom literacy resources
- \$200,000 to update social studies curriculum in Grade 6, 9 and high school
- \$100,000 for new equipment for courses like science and music
- \$120,000 for Core French and French Immersion resources for high schools
- Funding to develop the new International Baccalaureate program
- \$88,000 to help schools develop School Development Plans
- \$50,000 for the PEI Home and School Federation to test ways to increase parent involvement in schools and learning
- \$30,000 to help special needs students move from school to work or further study

Where does the money go?



Other new initiatives include the addition of another \$240,000 to improve school library collections.

A new welding program be established at Three Oaks High School with funding of \$570,000.

Based on the Staffing Model, six new teaching positions will be added and 30 more will be maintained at a cost of \$2 million this year alone.

Two new Speech Language Pathologists will be hired to work with school age children on language development and literacy skills.

\$500,000 will be added to improve services for students with special needs and to help teachers with the challenges of class composition.

School boards will receive an additional \$367,000 to address increased operating costs such as electricity costs.

Post-secondary Learning

New funding of \$2.1 million will enable UPEI to decrease undergraduate tuition fees this year by 10 per cent. Funding will also be provided to UPEI to cap future tuition increases to a maximum of 2 per cent in each of the next four years.

For students at Holland College and La Société Éducative who do not receive Skills Development benefits, the Island Student Award will be replaced with a new Island Skills Award of \$1,000 in each of the first, second and third years. With new funding of \$560,000 this will provide new assistance to over 450 students, and increased assistance to over 250 Holland College students.

The total amount that UPEI students receive through the Island Student Award will increase from \$1,200 to \$2,000. UPEI students will now receive \$100 in first year, \$300 in second year, \$800 in third year and \$800 in fourth year. This new funding of \$450,000 will provide new assistance to over 1,350 students and increased assistance to over 900 UPEI students.

Base operating funding for Holland College will increase by \$1 million.

Base operating funding for UPEI will increase by \$1.4 million.

Based on Government's ongoing commitment, UPEI will receive an additional \$550,000 this year for its campus renewal program.

Government will continue to work with La Société Éducative on a new agreement to recognize officially the important role this institution plays in the public post-secondary system.

Funding for Student Financial Assistance increase by \$470,000.

Post-secondary learners will benefit from a new initiative introduced by Provincial Treasury to reduce provincial income tax paid by students

and parents. This change will double the monthly amount that can be claimed for education on the provincial income tax return. The tax savings for Island students and families are estimated to be more than \$1.5 million.

Adult Literacy and Learning

An additional \$100,000 will be made available to train more adult educators and improve adult literacy skills. Funding for family literacy grants will double to \$30,000. The fee to write GED exams will be eliminated.

2007-2008 Budget Allocation	
Kindergarten	3.4 M
Grades 1 to 12	159.4 M
Salaries	141.5
Building operations	9.6
Transportation	2.5
Programs	1.9
Admin, other	3.9
Post-secondary, Adult Learning	69 M
UPEI	28.7
Holland College	14.1
AVC	7.6
LMDA	5.0
Interprovincial grants	4.4
Student Financial Assistance	5.3
Adult education	2.4
Other grants	1.5
Department of Education	15.3 M
English Programs	3.3
French Programs	1.95
Student Support Services	2.8
Books and resources	1.2
Continuing Education	1.9
Technology	1.0
Admin and Finance	1.8
Public Education	.40
School Development	.25
Program Evaluation and Assessment	.7
Total	247.1 M

For more information on the 2007-2008 Provincial Budget visit www.gov.pe.ca.