

Education and Early Childhood Development Budget 2012-2013

2012-2013 Budget Highlights

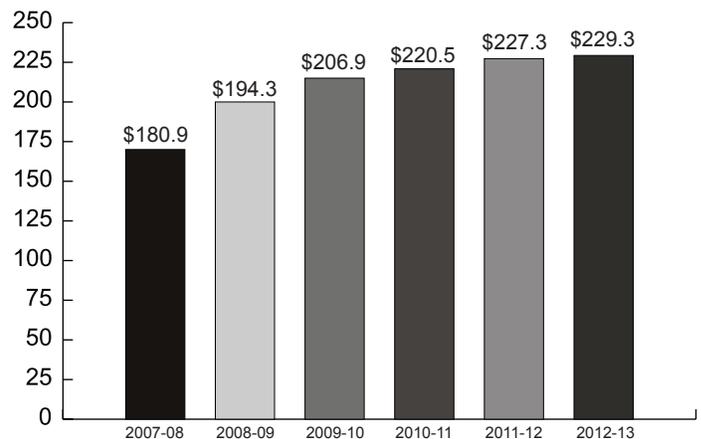
- As part of Government's three-year budget plan, the department's budget will increase by 1.8 per cent this year, with no further increases in years two and three.
- The total budget for 2012-2013 will increase by \$2.5 million to a total of \$229.3 million.
- To enhance student achievement, a single English school board will be established.

Annual funding has increased by 27% since 2007.

2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
\$180.9M	\$194.3M	\$206.9M	\$220.5M	\$227.3M	\$229.3M

Government believes that the future of the province is fundamentally tied to literacy and learning. To this end, the foundation of the educational system has been re-built in the past five years, new facilities have been constructed, kindergarten has been introduced as a full day program and new pre-school initiatives have been undertaken. The 2012-2013 budget outlines a plan that will continue to strengthen the educational system and provide support to the major initiatives that have been implemented over the past five years.

\$Millions



While the role of the school boards and early learning centres is to deliver high quality programming, the department is responsible to:

- Ensure that early learning centres and schools have consistent, high quality, and up-to-date curriculum.
- Monitor and report on student achievement at key stages of learning.
- Work closely with partners to support student achievement and parent engagement.
- Ensure that learning environments are conducive to healthy, active living.
- Ensure that staff are certified and have opportunities to continue learning.

- Inspect and maintain schools to ensure that students and staff have a safe and healthy place to learn and work
- Maintain school bus driver certification standards, and ensure that school buses are maintained and replaced regularly.

Accomplishments and current initiatives

- A province-wide kindergarten program was established in 2010. A total of 1,400 young Islanders completed the first year of the program in 2011.
- An early learning program was introduced in 2010 to ensure that children have a high quality learning experience. To date, 45 centres have been converted to early learning centres, supported by an investment of close to \$12 million. This was the largest investment ever made in early childhood development.
- The Best Start program provides assessment and support to parents of children from birth to 24 months. This program is being expanded with additional funding of \$60,000 this year.
- Major investments have been made to school facilities, through new construction and expansions.
- New technologies such as smart boards and LCD projectors have been installed, along with 7,400 computers. Approximately \$20 million has been invested in school construction, computer and trade equipment, capital upgrades and school bus replacement.
- A comprehensive inspection of all schools in the province has determined that they are safe for teachers and students.
- The student-teacher ratio was maintained despite declining enrolment. From 13.8/1 in 2008-2009, the ratio was 12.7/1 in 2010-2011. This is among the best in Canada.
- An additional \$200,000 will be provided to support children with special needs.
- A new literacy and math assessment for all Grade 12 students will be introduced.
- New school construction includes the K-12 school in Souris and the Spring Park School.

Quick facts

- There are 63 public schools in Prince Edward Island; six of those offer education in the French language.
- Student enrollment in 2010-2011 was 21,367 students; of those, 4,333 were enrolled in French immersion.
- There are 1,669 full-time equivalent teachers and 322 educational assistants.
- There are 113 licensed early childhood centres
- The value of school buildings is approximately \$521 million.
- 2012 marks the 160th anniversary of free public education in Prince Edward Island.
- Literacy scores have improved over the past three years; 85 percent of primary students have met or exceeded expectations in reading and 83% have met or are approaching expectations in math.
- Student graduation rates have risen from 87.9 percent in 2008 to 88.9 percent in 2010.