



EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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News Release

Provincial Budget Is Good News For Education

“The Provincial Government is listening to our Board’s concerns about a lack of funding in a number of areas,” said Debbie Engel, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

“The increases announced today to the basic instructional grant, funding for students with special needs and the English as a Second Language programming are all examples of the priority that this government places on education in Alberta,” Debbie Engel went on to say.

Today’s provincial budget announced a number of increases in educational funding including:

- 2.5% for the basic instructional grant
- 4% to funding for students with special needs
- 32.7% for students taking English as a Second Language (ESL) programming

The budget also included an additional \$1.2 million for the new Daily Physical Activity Initiative which begins this September for students in Kindergarten to Grade 9.

“By giving us this funding for the Daily Physical Activity initiative, government is also acknowledging that a successful implementation requires additional funding,” Debbie Engel added.

Dr. Dale Ripley, Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools, also added that “the Board of Trustees and district staff has worked tirelessly to advocate for additional funding in a number of areas, in particular special needs and supports for English as a Second Language students. We are pleased to see that Education Minister Zwozdesky had responded favorably in today’s budget to our concerns.”

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