

**Edmonton Catholic Schools  
Parent Online Budget Survey  
2015/2016 School Year**

The Parent Online Budget Survey was conducted from October 19<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The surveys were administered to parents of students attending Edmonton Catholic Schools. Similar surveys have been conducted since 2012. The numbers of respondents are as follows:

Survey Year	November 2012	November 2013	November 2014	November 2015
Response Number	635	446	1929	<b>2371</b>

Parents were asked to indicate the grades that applied to their children. The responses are as follows:

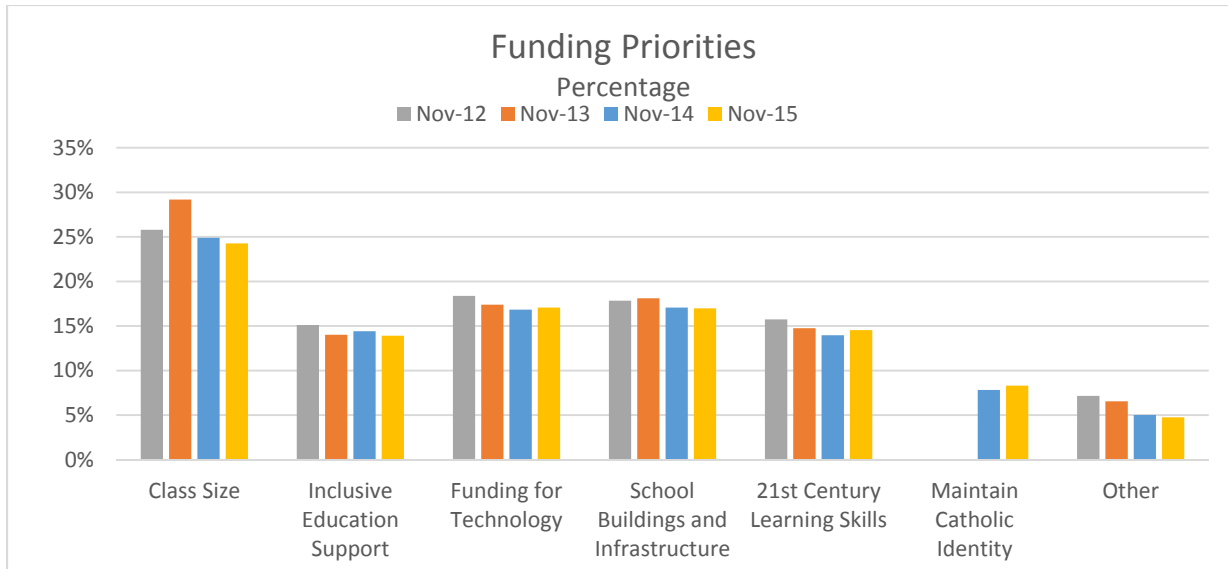
Grades	November 2012		November 2013		November 2014		November 2015	
<b>Pre-Kindergarten</b>	33	3.56%	34	5.19%	149	5.46%	200	<b>5.90%</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	88	9.48%	69	10.53%	337	12.36%	351	<b>10.36%</b>
<b>Grade 1 to 3</b>	239	25.75%	189	28.85%	711	26.07%	893	<b>26.36%</b>
<b>Grade 4 to 6</b>	200	21.55%	131	20.00%	566	20.76%	744	<b>21.96%</b>
<b>Grade 7 to 9</b>	202	21.77%	152	23.21%	522	19.14%	645	<b>19.04%</b>
<b>Grade 10 to 12</b>	166	17.89%	80	12.21%	442	16.21%	555	<b>16.38%</b>
<b>Total</b>	928	100%	655	100%	2727	100%	3388	<b>100%</b>

Parents were asked a series of questions. For the purposes of this report, the question is provided as well as the results.

**Question 1:** Meeting your needs: One of the biggest challenges for any school district is managing all the competing priorities. In those areas where funding priorities can be set, we invite you to allocate funds.

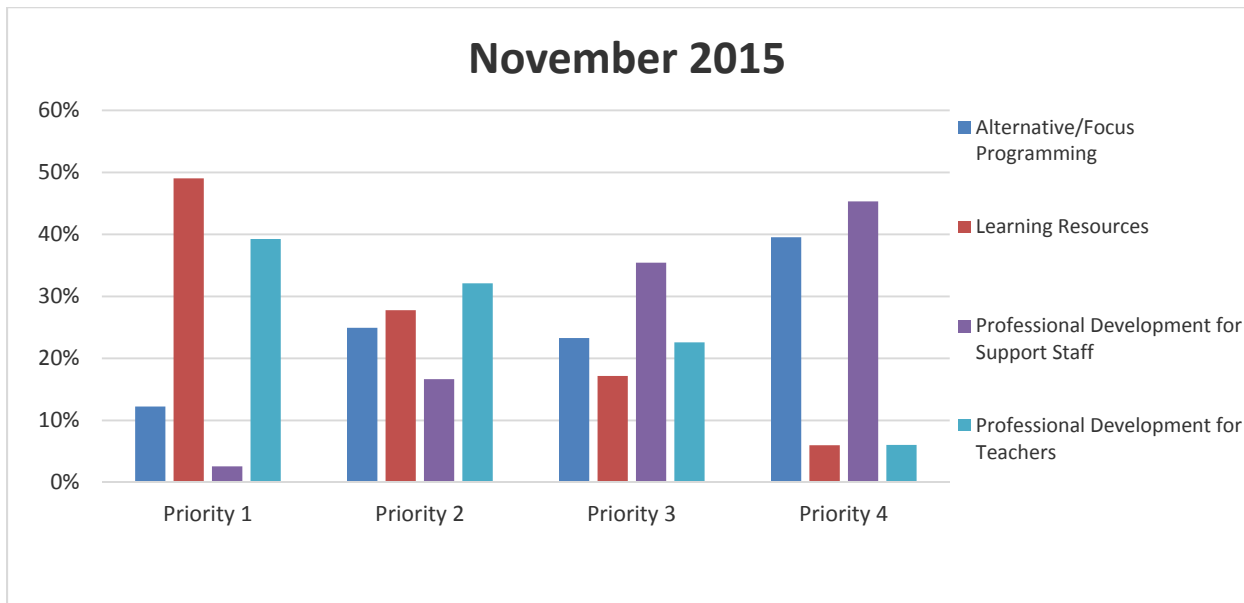
**Question 1a):** How would you allocate the budget?

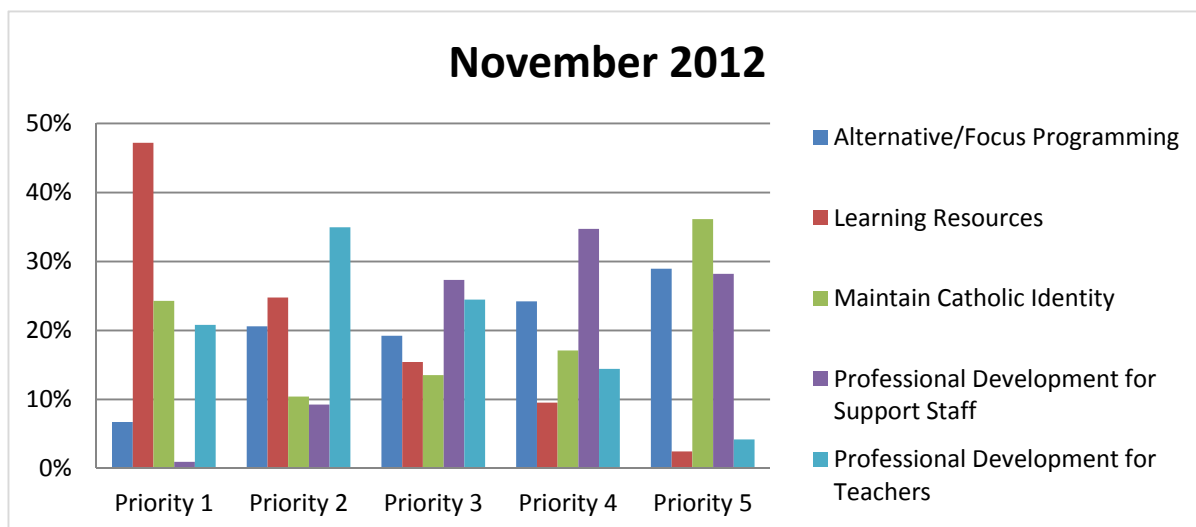
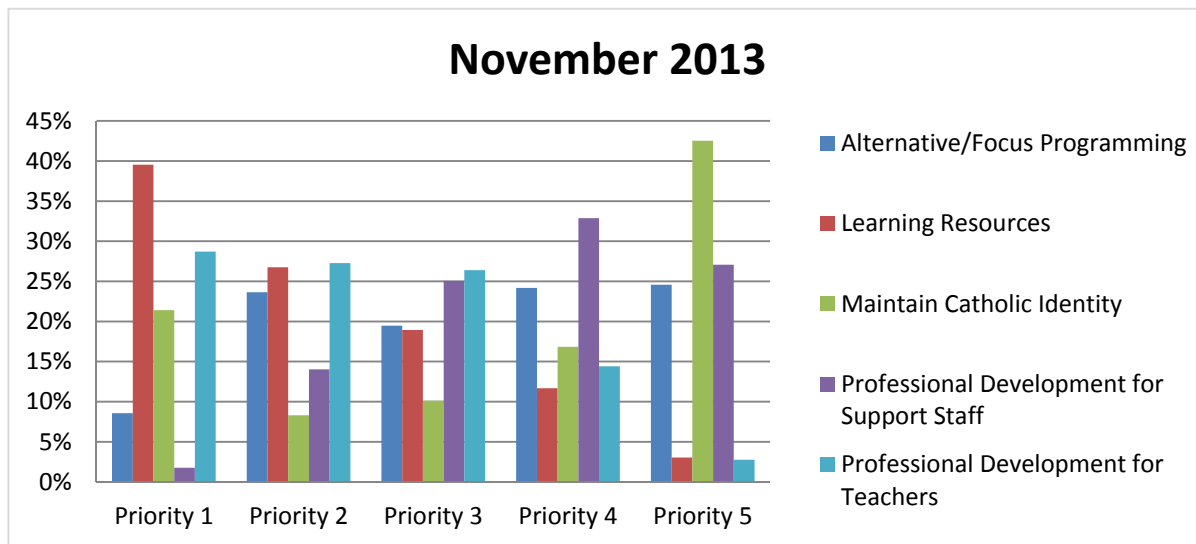
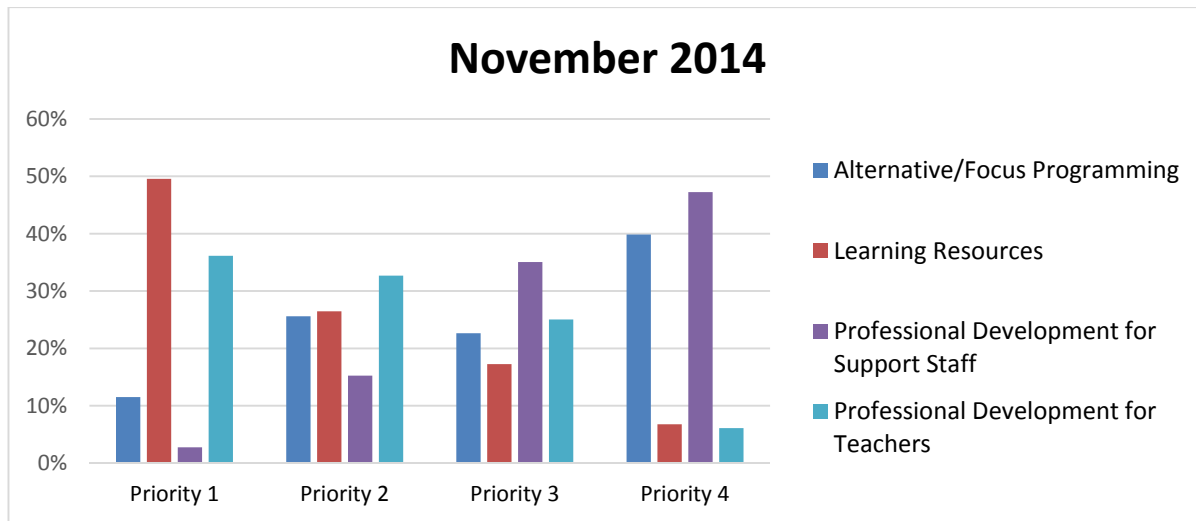
Funding Priorities (%)	Nov. 2012	Nov. 2013	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2015
Class Size	25.80	29.19	24.90	<b>24.27</b>
Inclusive Education Support	15.11	14.02	14.41	<b>13.90</b>
Funding for Technology	18.38	17.39	16.84	<b>17.06</b>
School Buildings and Infrastructure	17.83	18.10	17.06	<b>16.97</b>
21st Century Learning Skills	15.73	14.75	13.96	<b>14.53</b>
Maintain Catholic Identity	N/A	N/A	7.82	<b>8.30</b>
Other	7.15	6.55	5.01	<b>4.75</b>



**Question 1b):** Please rank the items in the “Other” category:

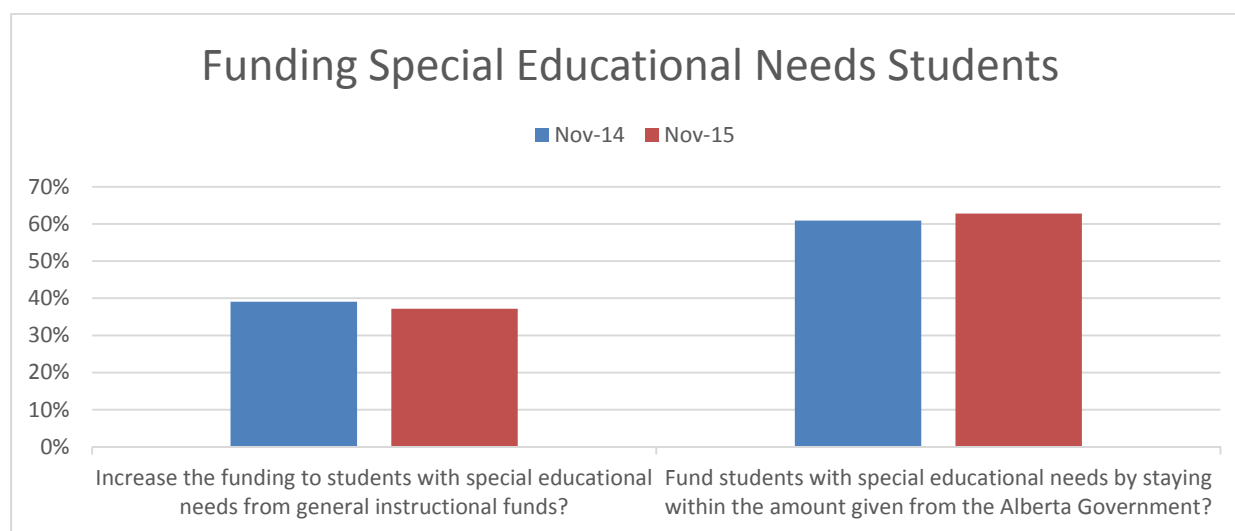
“Other” Category Items	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
Alternative/Focus Programming	12.23%	24.95%	23.29%	39.53%
Learning Resources	49.04%	27.78%	17.18%	6.00%
Professional Development for Support Staff	2.60%	16.66%	35.42%	45.32%
Professional Development for Teachers	39.25%	32.10%	22.60%	6.05%





**Question 2:** The district identifies students that require special education supports and services. Alberta Education provides Inclusive Education Funding to all school districts. The government allows school districts the flexibility to use this funding to best meet the needs of students with special educational requirements. Our District could also increase funding for students needing special educational supports, using general instructional funds, which would in turn decrease funding to other areas.

<b>Question 2</b>	<b>November 2014</b>	<b>November 2015</b>
Increase the funding to students with special educational needs from general instructional funds?	39.09%	<b>37.19%</b>
Fund students with special educational needs by staying within the amount given from the Alberta Government?	60.91%	<b>62.81%</b>



**Previous Question 2:** Overall, do you support the use of district funds over and above the funding that the government supplies to the district to provide for students requiring specialized supports?

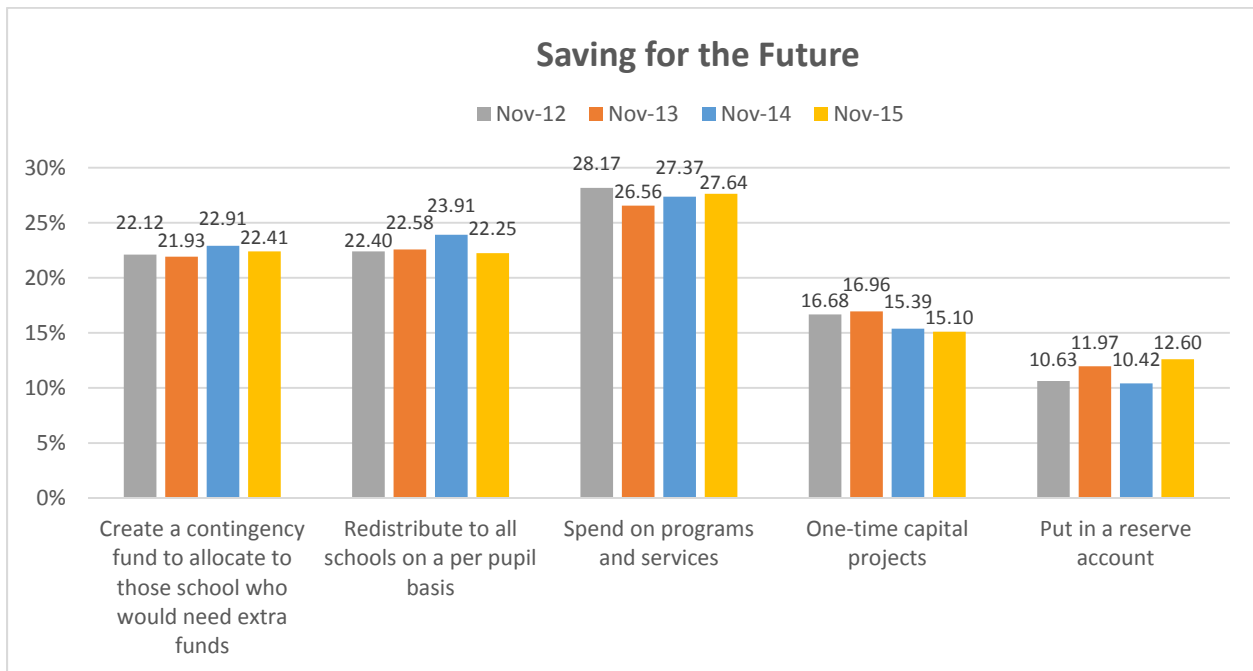
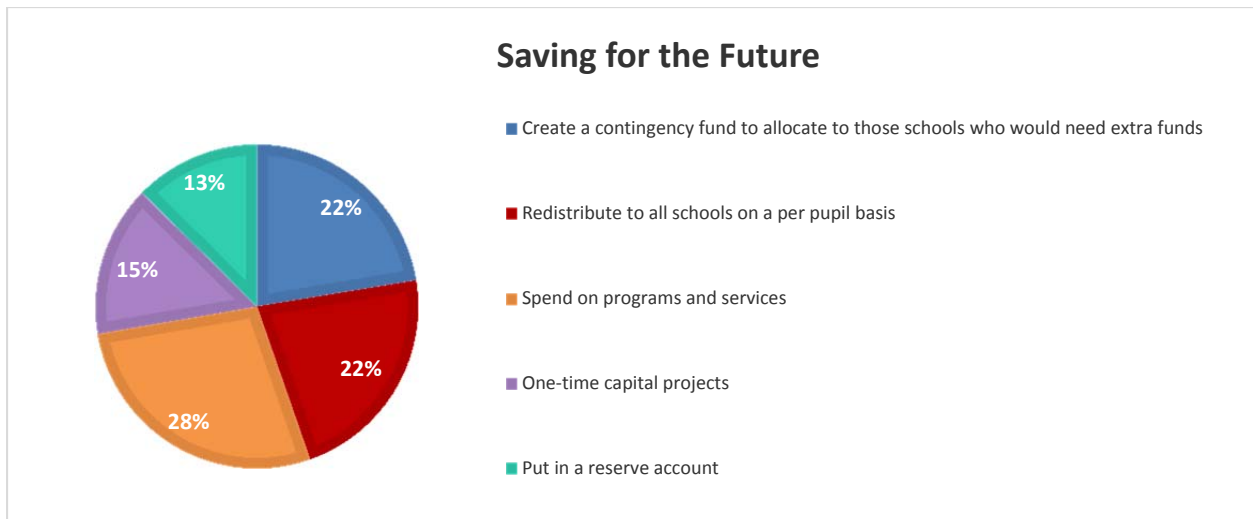
<b>Previous Question 2</b>	<b>November 2012</b>	<b>November 2013</b>
Remain the same	48.78%	53.90%
Increase	41.33%	40.37%
Decrease	9.89%	5.73%

**Previous Question 2:** Would you be willing to reduce funding to other district and school Priorities in order to meet the unique needs of individual students?

<b>Previous Question 2</b>	<b>November 2012</b>	<b>November 2013</b>
No	55.41%	56.92%
Yes	44.59%	43.08%

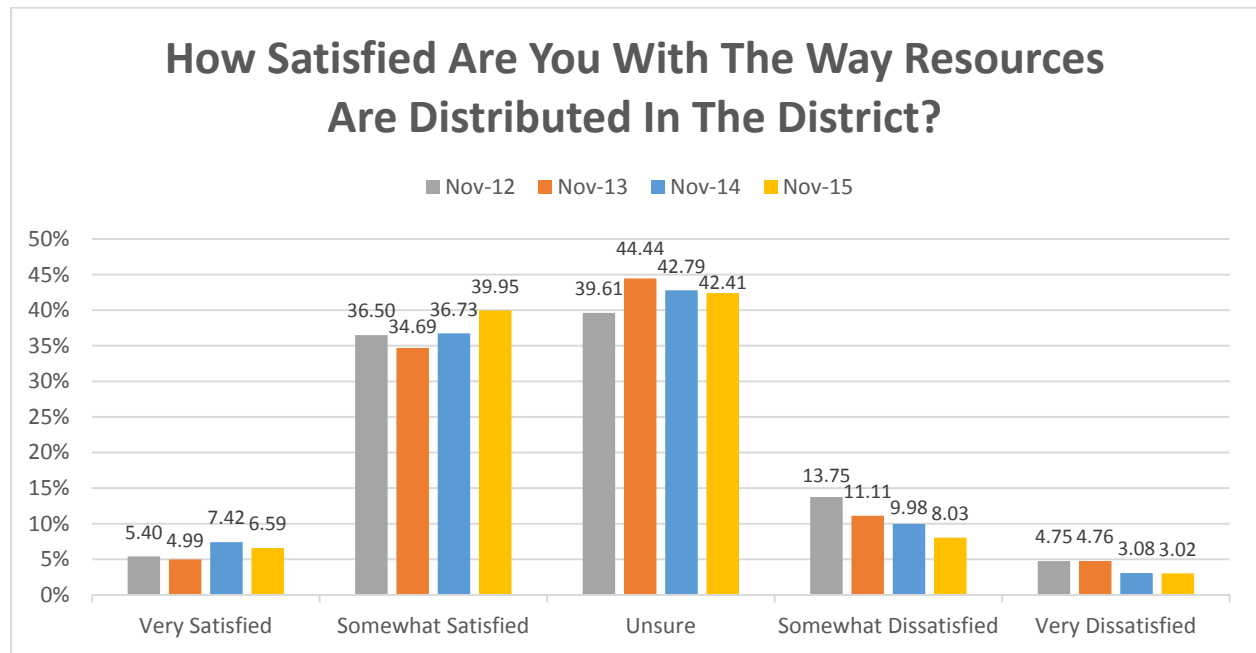
**Question 3 - Saving for the future:** After funding school needs appropriately and if a surplus existed, what would be your priority/priorities?

Priorities	Nov. 2012	Nov. 2013	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2015
Create a contingency fund to allocate to those schools who would need extra funds	22.12%	21.93%	22.91%	<b>22.41%</b>
Redistribute to all schools on a per pupil basis	22.40%	22.58%	23.91%	<b>22.25%</b>
Spend on programs and services	28.17%	26.56%	27.37%	<b>27.64%</b>
One-time capital projects	16.68%	16.96%	15.39%	<b>15.10%</b>
Put in a reserve account	10.63%	11.97%	10.42%	<b>12.60%</b>



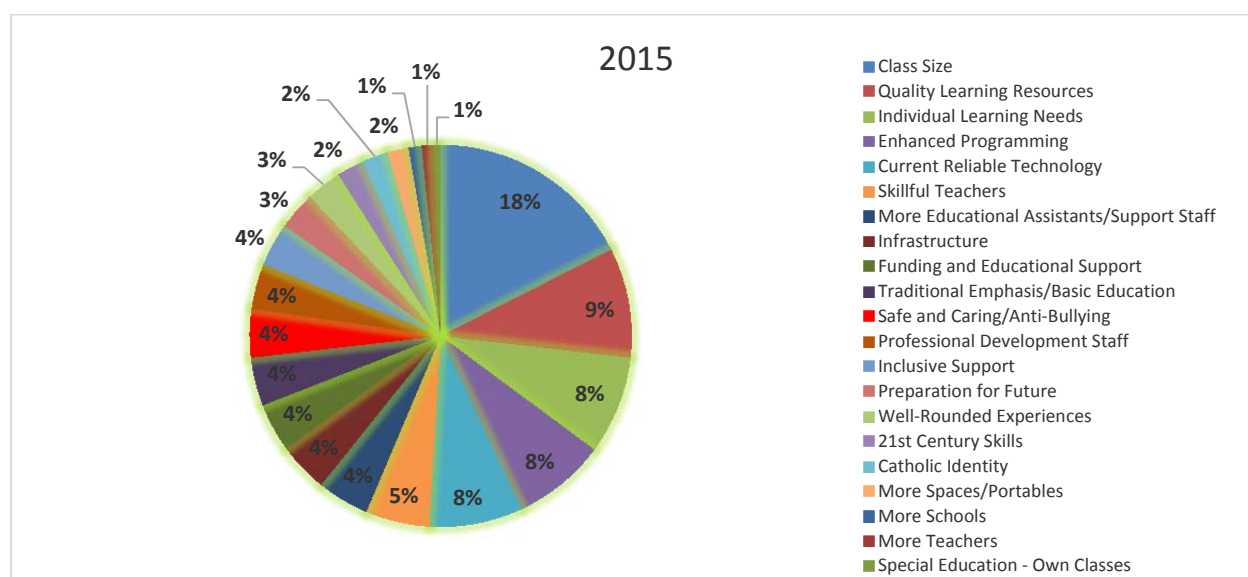
**Question 4:** How satisfied are you with the way resources are distributed in the District?

Responses	November 2012	November 2013	November 2014	November 2015
Very Satisfied	5.40%	4.99%	7.42%	<b>6.59%</b>
Somewhat Satisfied	36.50%	34.69%	36.73%	<b>39.95%</b>
Unsure	39.61%	44.44%	42.79%	<b>42.41%</b>
Somewhat Dissatisfied	13.75%	11.11%	9.98%	<b>8.03%</b>
Very Dissatisfied	4.75%	4.76%	3.08%	<b>3.02%</b>



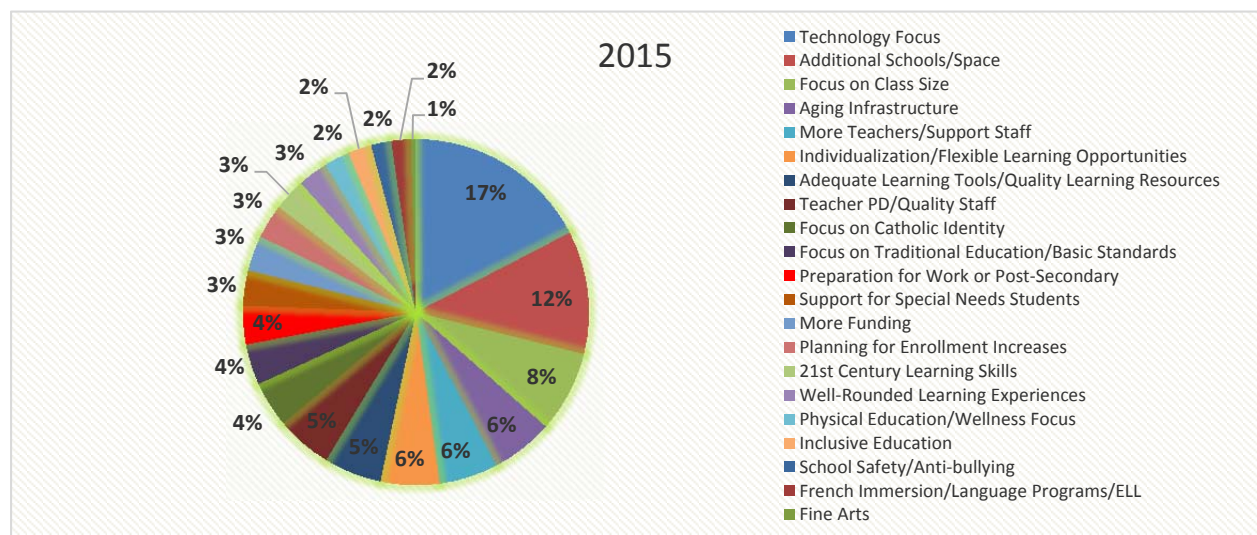
**Question 5:** As a parent of a student in an Edmonton Catholic School, what would you like the Budget Committee to consider as essential to the education of your child?

Categories	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015 Response Numbers
Class Size	27%	40%	18.5%	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>551</b>
Quality Learning Resources	7%	5%	10.3%	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>291</b>
Individual Learning Needs			3.4%	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>261</b>
Current Reliable Technology	10%	10%	7.5%	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>249</b>
Enhanced Programming			8.8%	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>249</b>
Skillful Teachers		3%	4.8%	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>170</b>
More Educational Assistants/Support Staff	4%	9%	3.4%	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>139</b>
Infrastructure			4.1%	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>132</b>
Funding and Educational Support			6.5%	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>129</b>
Safe and Caring/Anti-Bullying			3.4%	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>129</b>
Traditional Emphasis/Basic Education			4.6%	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>128</b>
Professional Development Staff	9%	7%	2.9%	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>119</b>
Inclusive Support	3%	3%	4.9%	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>116</b>
Preparation for Future			2.0%	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>99</b>
Well-Rounded Experiences		3%	2.8%	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>95</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Skills	6%	4%	2.1%	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>73</b>
Catholic Identity	4%	3%	2.3%	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>70</b>
More Spaces/Portables	5%	5%	2.6%	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>56</b>
More Schools		2%	2.0%	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>36</b>
More Teachers		3%	1.4%	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>30</b>
Special Education - Own Classes			1.7%	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>20</b>
Other		2%			
<b>Total</b>					<b>3142</b>



**Question 6:** What do you anticipate as future needs based on changes that are occurring in education and Edmonton Catholic Schools?

Categories	2012 Rank	2013 Rank	2014	2015	Responses
Technology Focus	5 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	17.0%	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>363</b>
Additional Schools/Space		2 <sup>nd</sup>	13.0%	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>240</b>
Focus on Class Size	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.6%	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>158</b>
Aging Infrastructure	8 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.2%	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>122</b>
More Teachers/Support Staff	7 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.3%	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>115</b>
Individualization/Flexible Learning Opportunities		17 <sup>th</sup>	2.7%	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>114</b>
Adequate Learning Tools/Quality Learning Resources		7 <sup>th</sup>	5.7%	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>113</b>
Teacher PD/Quality Staff	4 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	5.2%	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>109</b>
Focus on Catholic Identity		13 <sup>th</sup>	2.1%	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>90</b>
Focus on Traditional Education/Basic Standards		6 <sup>th</sup>	5.9%	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>79</b>
Preparation for Work or Post-Secondary			2.4%	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>75</b>
More Funding			2.2%	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>70</b>
Support for Special Needs Students		11 <sup>th</sup>	2.6%	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>68</b>
Planning for Enrollment Increases			1.8%	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>67</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills	1 <sup>st</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	3.2%	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>62</b>
Well-Rounded Learning Experiences		8 <sup>th</sup>	1.5%	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>58</b>
Physical Education/Wellness Focus		12 <sup>th</sup>	3.2%	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>51</b>
Inclusive Education	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	2.5%	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>47</b>
School Safety/Anti-bullying			0.9%	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>40</b>
French Immersion/Language Programs/ELL		14 <sup>th</sup>	1.9%	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>38</b>
Fine Arts		16 <sup>th</sup>	0.8%	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>11</b>
Other Issues			2.8%		
No Response			1.4%		
<b>Total</b>					<b>2090</b>





**Question 7:** In what areas could cost saving measures be taken by the Edmonton Catholic School District?

<b>Categories</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<b>Do not know/no knowledge of district budget:</b>	22%	16%	23.8%	<b>22.9%</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>Saving on Resources:</b>	12%	20%	15.1%	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>244</b>
Paperless – use of electronic communication/online resources					67
Energy efficient technology/more automated systems					33
Sharing facilities and resources with EPSB					25
Combine smaller schools/partnership/share resources					28
Digitize libraries to save money on books					0
Allow students to bring in their own devices					6
Better utilization of resources/reduce redundancy					85
<b>Cuts/Waste:</b>	12%	22%	17.0%	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>210</b>
Advertising					8
Stop spending money to fix old schools					4
Technology – iPads, Smart Boards, etc.					60
PD Days, FD Day, catered lunches, out of town PD, events					54
District Events – 125 Anniversary, Faith Development Days, District PD					9
Transform/21 <sup>st</sup> Century Fluencies PD					11
Spending less on unneeded furniture/equipment					11
Reduce supplies					7
Audit schools					7
Reduce busing					12
Field Trips					27
<b>Cut Wages or Cut Staffing:</b>	15%	12%	11.9%	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>197</b>
Teachers					46
Reduce administration					25
Central administration costs					55
Fewer administrators in schools					5
Trustee costs					17
Decrease the number of consultants					21
More Early Retirement Packages					0
Support Staff					22
Outsourcing/Job Sharing					6
<b>Potential Revenue:</b>	8%	10%	12.7%	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>146</b>
Rental of facilities					17
Selling off old, underutilized schools					2
More fundraising					27
Use more school days					6
Allow industry to fund					13
Work with industry in naming rights of buildings					0
Lobby the government for more money					11
Keep casinos					2

Parents pay more for services such as transportation and school fees					30
Redistribute funds more evenly between schools					15
Invest reserve monies in revenue generating fund					1
Parent volunteering/involvement					22
<b>Programs:</b>	5%	1%	6.6%	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>101</b>
Cutting special needs programs					5
Cut focus/academy/specialty programs					31
Special Needs programs not inclusion					25
Back to basics					17
Re-evaluate Early Learning Programs					7
Reduce options/elective subjects					16
<b>No Cuts/Don't see any waste:</b>	3%	5%	5.1%	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Buildings:</b>	4%	4%	4.6%	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>65</b>
Outsource maintenance work					5
Utilizing all available spaces rather than building new schools					22
Build larger schools instead of smaller schools will cut down on costs					3
More cost effective maintenance					30
Add new schools					5
<b>Closing Schools:</b>	4%	9%	3.2%	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total</b>					<b>1383</b>

