
BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Education

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN B.C.

- Funding for all students with special needs increased by \$45.5 million to nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars in 2005-06. The \$45-million increase includes an additional \$38 million for school districts and \$7.5 million for independent schools.
- School boards now receive \$32,000 for each full-time Level 1 student, \$16,000 for each full-time Level 2 student, and \$8,000 for each full-time Level 3 student. These grants have increased by \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$2,000, respectively.
- Students in the Level 1 funding category are dependent handicapped or deaf and blind. Level 2 students are intellectually disabled, physically disabled, chronic health impaired, visually impaired, deaf or hearing impaired, or autistic. Level 3 students have intensive behaviour disorders or serious mental illness.
- Districts received \$2 million this year for students with special needs who moved from one district to another or who were identified after the Sept. 30 final enrolment count.
- The government has invested \$2.2 million more in communication technology and special equipment for students with special needs.
- The Province provides more than \$26 million a year to school districts that host provincial resource programs, which offer services to students with special needs or students who are in hospitals, treatment centres or detention centres.
- In 2002, funding of about \$230 million was rolled into school districts' annual operating grants for students with special needs who do not fall into the Level 1, 2 or 3 funding categories, such as gifted students and students with behaviour disabilities.
- This year, there are 40,393 students who fall outside the Level 1, 2 and 3 funding categories – a decrease of more than 7,600 from 2001-02. During the same time period, the basic per student allocation has increased by more than \$2,300.
- The Ministry of Education monitors the work of school boards in improving the achievement of students with special needs through district accountability contracts.

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