Grasslands Public Schools

2026-2027 Budget Report
Press Release

The 2026-2027 Budget Report was approved by the Grasslands School Division Board of Trustees on Monday, June 8, 2026. The 2026-2027 operating budget is based on the current information provided by Alberta Education and the direction given by the Minister of Education.

"The approval of the 2026-2027 budget reflects our Board's unwavering commitment to student success and classroom stability", explained Pat Connor, Board Chair. "We are encouraged by the overall increase in provincial funding which allows us to protect the heart of our division: our people and our programs. This ensures that the high-quality educational experiences our families expect remain uninterrupted. We particularly welcome the targeted investment from Alberta Education aimed at class size reductions and the implementation of Classroom Complexity Teams. These resources are vital for addressing the diverse needs of our students and providing our teachers with the support they need." Board Chair Connor continues, "While we see progress in the classroom, we continue to face significant hurdles in our operation and maintenance budget. The reality of skyrocketing costs and the increasing expense of maintaining infrastructure has created a difficult financial environment. While our schools are places of learning, they are also physical facilities that require sustainable funding to remain safe and efficient. We will continue to manage these pressures diligently while advocating for the support necessary to keep our buildings running effectively."

The 2026-2027 Budget funding framework provided by Alberta Education recognizes the importance of flexible, stable, and predictable funding enabling school boards to make budget decisions in recognition of their unique local contexts. This framework uses an approach to calculating grant funding based on an adjusted enrollment method that captures enrollments across two school years (estimated current year, projected subsequent year) as opposed to one point in time. This two-year weighted average method enables boards to plan and budget with confidence in their funding, rather than waiting for student counts, for the next school year. Any differences between actual and projected enrollments are accounted for through funding in the subsequent school year.

The Grasslands School Division consolidated budget is comprised of five main parts: Instruction, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, Administration and External Services.

Enrolments for 2026-2027 are projected to show a slight increase from the prior year's actual enrollments of 1.0% or 32 students overall. Administrators' enrollment projections were compared against enrollment projection software for reasonability while considering the administrators' local knowledge. Grasslands is financially dependent on funding from the Province of Alberta. The division is projected to receive approximately 96% of its funding from the Provincial Government. Other sources of funding include tuition for students from the Siksika Board of Education, fees for course option supplies and materials, interest income from cash reserves and rent from teacherages. The total budgeted revenues from all sources for the 2026-2027 school year are expected to increase by $4,510,220 or 8.7% from the 2025-2026 budget.

	2026-2027 Budget		2025-2026 Budget		Change	
Alberta Education	$ 49,918,220	88.5%	$ 46,720,011	90.0%	$ 3,198,209	6.8%
Alberta Infrastructure	$ 3,422,461	6.1%	$ 2,250,697	4.3%	$ 1,171,764	52.1%
Other Gov't of AB	$ 698,808	1.2%	$ 669,323	1.3%	$ 29,485	4.4%
Fed. Gov't & First Nations	$ 587,691	1.0%	$ 574,857	1.1%	$ 12,834	2.2%
Other Revenues	$ 828,346	1.5%	$ 774,007	1.5%	$ 54,339	7.0%
School-Generated Funds	$ 970,154	1.7%	$ 926,565	1.8%	$ 43,589	4.7%
Total	**$ 56,425,680**	**100.0%**	**$ 51,915,460**	**100.0%**	**$ 4,510,220**	**8.7%**

The total funding to be received from Alberta Education for the 2026-2027 school year is $49,918,220 an increase of $3,198,209 or 6.8% from the 2025-2026 budget. Most of this increase is connected to Alberta Education's commitment to fund the new 2024-2028 Collective Agreement with teachers.

	2026-2027 Budget		2025-2026 Budget		Change	
Base Instruction	$ 22,931,706	45.9%	$ 23,050,986	49.3%	$ (119,280)	-0.5%
Services & Supports	$ 6,808,249	13.6%	$ 6,647,386	14.2%	$ 160,863	2.4%
Schools	$ 7,348,602	14.7%	$ 7,276,482	15.6%	$ 72,120	1.0%
Community	$ 3,958,139	7.9%	$ 3,869,712	8.3%	$ 88,427	2.3%
Jurisdictions	$ 4,746,625	9.5%	$ 3,134,061	6.7%	$ 1,612,564	51.5%
Other Funding	$ 4,124,899	8.3%	$ 2,741,384	5.9%	$ 1,383,515	50.5%
Total	**$ 49,918,220**	**100.0%**	**$ 46,720,011**	**100.0%**	**$ 3,198,209**	**6.8%**

Other funding consists of Alberta Teacher Retirement Fund contributions made by the Government of Alberta on behalf of the school board and amortization on government supported assets. Both items are non-cash transactions. Other funding also includes grants for Class Size Reduction and Classroom Complexity Teams as well as funding for curriculum implementation and literacy and numeracy supports.

Total salaries and benefits for certificated and support staff are budgeted to increase by $3,648,148 or 8.7%. This is due to a combination of grid increases for both teachers and support staff, increased staffing levels, salary grid movement, and increased benefit costs. Instructional staffing levels will be increased by 3.83 FTE or 1.9% for certificated staff and increased by 5.5 FTE or 4.3% for support staff for the 2026-2027 year. Other costs are expected to increase by $848,707 or 7.8%. Overall, expenses are expected to increase by $4,496,855 over the 2025-2026 budget.

	2026-2027 Budget		2025-2026 Budget		Change	
Certificated Staffing	$ 29,815,005	52.5%	$ 26,478,960	50.6%	$ 3,336,045	12.6%
Non-certificated Staffing	$ 15,373,197	27.1%	$ 15,061,094	28.8%	$ 312,103	2.1%
Supplies	$ 2,663,608	4.7%	$ 2,535,431	4.8%	$ 128,177	5.1%
Capital and Debt Services	$ 3,873,133	6.8%	$ 2,832,029	5.4%	$ 1,041,104	36.8%
Services	$ 2,066,817	3.6%	$ 2,173,499	4.2%	$ (106,682)	-4.9%
School Generated Funds	$ 970,154	1.7%	$ 926,565	1.8%	$ 43,589	4.7%
Other	$ 2,070,602	3.6%	$ 2,328,083	4.4%	$ (257,481)	-11.1%
Total	**$ 56,832,516**	**100.0%**	**$ 52,335,661**	**100.0%**	**$ 4,496,855**	**8.6%**

The result is a net deficit of $406,836 for the 2026-2027 school year due to the funding gap between revenues received and projected expenses. The 2026-2027 deficit will be covered off by a reliance on reserves. Of the total deficit, $12,067 will be covered by an operating surplus and $418,903 by the Investment in Tangible Capital Assets reserve.

The province has advised that a limit on the maximum adjusted operating (AOS) reserves school boards can hold will continue in the 2026-2027 year at 6% of total expenses as per the August 31, 2027, audited financial statements. This budget ensures that Grasslands will be within the maximum adjusted AOS requirements at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

Click here to see the 2026-27 Budget Infographic. Detailed budget information is available on the Grasslands website and from the Central Office.