



2026-2027

Drafting the Budget

Community Meeting
January 21, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) brings together a community of schools on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Ininewak, and Dakota. Our division is located on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We recognize that Manitoba is also the traditional land of the Anishininiwak and Dene.

We respect the treaties made on this land and acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and present. We dedicate ourselves to authentic alliances with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation.

We recognize and honour Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, the source of Winnipeg's life-sustaining drinking water, as well as the Treaty Territories that generate and provide the electricity that powers daily activity throughout the province and beyond.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



OUR VISION

Is for all members of our community to excel as caring, confident, capable, and resilient life-long learners who contribute to a democratic and sustainable world.

OUR MISSION

Is to provide a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment, where personal and collective learning are valued, and each one of us reaches our full potential.

OUR MOTTO

Thriving Learners \diamond Flourishing Communities

AGENDA

 Welcome

 MYSP & Trustees' strategic focus for 2026-27

 How school funding works in Manitoba

 LRSD in 2025-26

 The growth and financial pressures LRSD faces

 Student needs

 Supporting staff while managing costs

 What's at stake for students, staff, families, and community

 How you can help shape next year's budget

 Our commitment: Every decision we make puts students first

BUDGET DECISIONS GUIDED BY THE MYSP 2023-2027



Strategic Priority 1: Belonging

- **1.1** - Expand the LRSD Community Schools Network at the René Deleurme Centre to serve more schools and families.
- **1.2** - Create a comprehensive Workplace Safety and Health Program to promote and support employee wellness to better nurture student wellness.
- **1.3** - Reinforce trauma-responsive practices.
- **1.4** - Introduce Indigenous Language Nests for preschool-aged children in our family centres. Expand both the Kindergarten to Grade 3 Indigenous Language Exposure curriculum and Grades 9-12 Indigenous Language Options to all schools.
- **1.5** - Reframe the Grade 11 English Language Arts curriculum to focus on Indigenous literature and perspectives while ensuring the Grade 11 History curriculum thoroughly explores Indigenous histories and perspectives.
- **1.6** - Expand International and Heritage Language options in high schools



Strategic Priority 2: Mastery

- **2.1** - Strengthen a learner-centred and holistic approach to ensure instruction is tailored to meet and build on the unique needs, interests, aptitudes, and abilities of each student.
- **2.2** - Develop a framework to assist staff in supporting neurodiversity and diverse abilities in our classrooms.
- **2.3** - Implement universal early screening and monitoring to ensure a preventive and proactive approach to teaching and systemic interventions.
- **2.4** - Create and implement a social and emotional learning curriculum in all classrooms.
- **2.5** - Make the French Immersion program easier to access by introducing new entry points and meeting the needs of all learners.
- **2.6** - Enhance French Language teaching and learning in English program schools.



Strategic Priority 3: Independence

- **3.1** - Promote learner agency and potential, as well as more accurate grading through the ongoing development of more formative and dynamic learner assessments.
- **3.2** - Enhance student voice and agency to put students' experiences at the heart of decision-making in classrooms, schools, and divisional systems.
- **3.3** - Create and teach an Information Literacy Continuum and Curriculum for all students that includes a focus on discerning, safe and healthy behaviours when using and creating information, especially online.
- **3.4** - Develop a framework to assist staff in supporting multilingual learners in becoming proficient in English – and French in the context of French Immersion schools – by valuing and developing their first language.
- **3.5** - Create a flexible, short-term learning and therapeutic space for students needing to be away from their home school to support their successful return to a classroom.
- **3.6** - Enhance Project-Based Learning, Arts Education, Practical Arts, Active Healthy Living, Technical Vocational Education, Apprenticeship, Adult Education, and Career Development offerings, their connection to each other and to all classrooms.

Strategic Priority 4: Generosity

- **4.1** - Build safe, modern, and accessible spaces for learning and work in all schools and workplaces, both indoors and outdoors.
- **4.2** - Expand safe, active, and equitable transportation to and from school.
- **4.3** - Implement universal full-day Kindergarten and enhance access to before-and-after school care.
- **4.4** - Implement a universal nutrition program.
- **4.5** - Involve the whole school in learning and teaching about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with an emphasis on Indigenous worldviews and land-based education.
- **4.6** - Fulfil the aspirations, protocols, and practices of the Employment Equity Policy.
- **4.7** - Implement a program that supports students from historically oppressed, marginalized, and underrepresented groups to complete two post-secondary degrees and start their teaching career in LRSD.



TRUSTEES' STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR 2026-27

- **What Trustees Prioritized Most:**

- Workplace Safety & Health (1.2) – Staff wellbeing as foundation for student success
- Project-Based, Technical Vocational Learning (3.6) – Emphasis on practical, hands-on pathways

- **Strong Trustee Support:**

- Community Schools Network (1.1)
- Indigenous Curriculum (1.5)
- International & Heritage Languages (1.6)
- Inclusive Instruction & Neurodiversity (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
- French Immersion Access (2.5)
- Infrastructure, Nutrition, Transport, Equity (4.1–4.4, 4.6)

WHERE DOES SCHOOL FUNDING COME FROM?

Public schools are funded based on enrolment, student needs, and estimated costs, through the following sources:

- Provincial Government – Operating Funding & Grants
- Local Property Taxes – School Board sets a local "special levy" (property tax)
- Provincial Property Tax Rebates
- Other sources – International Student Program, student fees, rentals



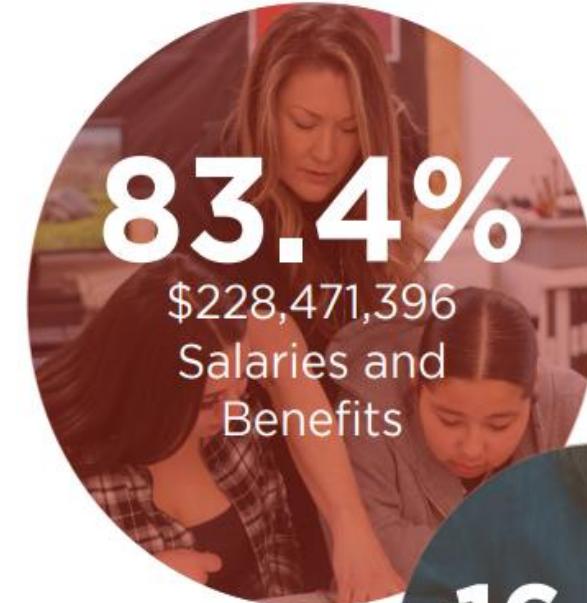
WHERE DOES THE BUDGET GO?

2025/26 Budget:

- 83.4% Salaries & Benefits (\$228.5M)—largest cost by far
- 16.6% Operating Costs (\$45.3M)—supplies, utilities, transportation, maintenance

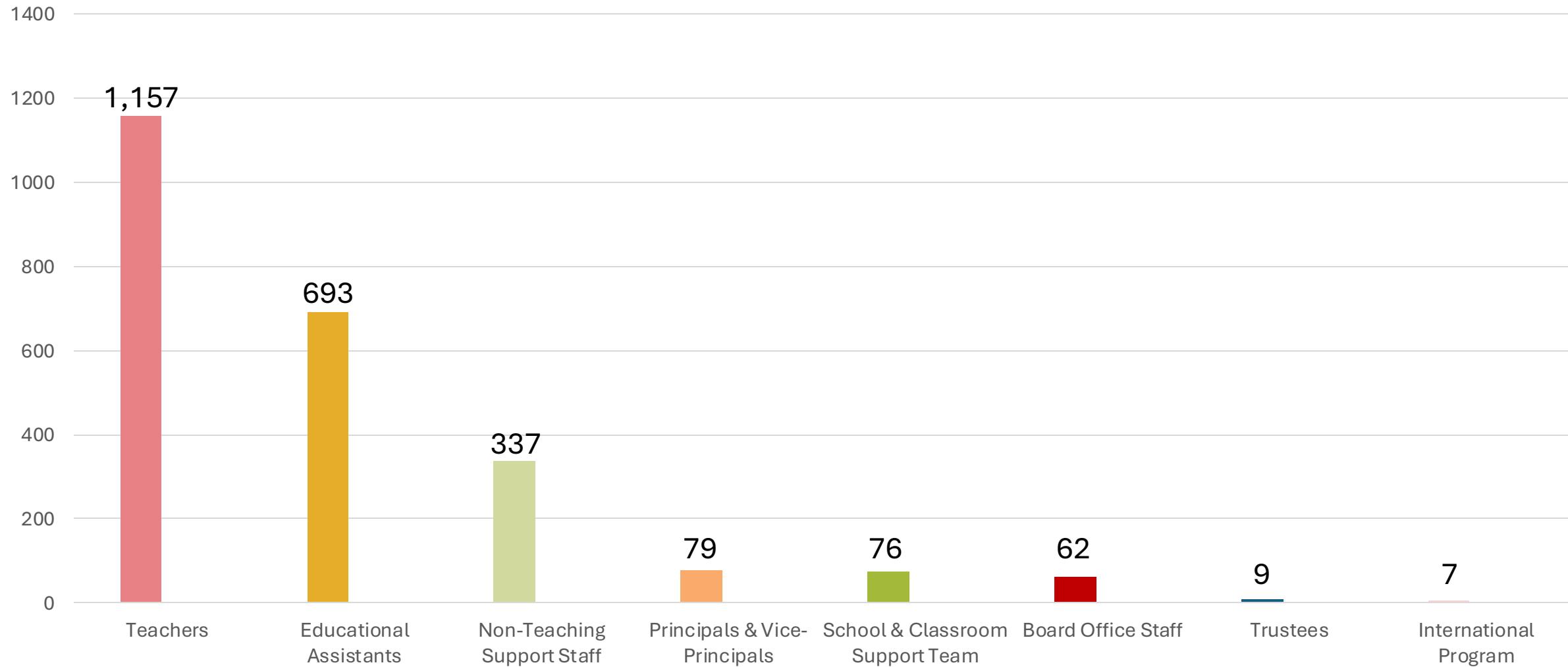
Why salaries dominate:

- Education is a people-centred profession
- Quality staff = quality education for students



WHO WORKS IN LRSD?

(2,420 TOTAL STAFF)



STAFF TO STUDENT RATIOS (K-12)

- Classroom Teacher-to-Student Ratio **1:22.5**
- Student Services Teacher-to-Student Ratio **1:97.3**
- School-based Educational Assistant-to-Student Accessing Additional Supports Ratio **1:6.3**
- Clinician-to-Student Accessing Additional Supports Ratio **1:71.1**
- Instructional Support & Indigenous Education Teams-to-Student Ratio **1:701.2**

THE PERFECT STORM: FIVE MAJOR COST PRESSURES



**Enrolment
Growth**



**Inflation
Rates**



**Pandemic
Impact**



**Austerity
Fallout**



**Aging
Infrastructure**

AUSTERITY

- **History:**

- From 2016 – 2023 the Provincial government mandated austerity:
 - Provincial Funding for students remained flat
 - School divisions were restricted from raising funds through property tax increases
 - Bill 28 – mandated wage freezes (enacted in 2017, but subsequently repealed in 2021 resulting in retroactive wage obligations)
- During this time:
 - Student enrolment increased
 - Experienced a global pandemic
 - Inflationary costs continued to rise
 - Infrastructure needs were not prioritized

- **Impact:**

- More students, with greater needs resulting in greater costs, but less funding per child



LRSD HAS GROWN RAPIDLY

- 2016–17: 14,931 students
- 2025–26: 17,359 students
- 10-year growth: 2,428 new students (16.3% increase)
- **Recent acceleration:**
 - 2022–2023: +4.5% growth (+704 students)
 - 2023–2024: +5.5% growth (+892 students)
 - 2024–2025: +2.7% growth (+455 students)
 - 2025–2026: -0.4% decline (-65 students)
- **What this meant:**
 - More teachers, educational assistants, and supports needed
 - More buses, schools, classrooms, resources needed

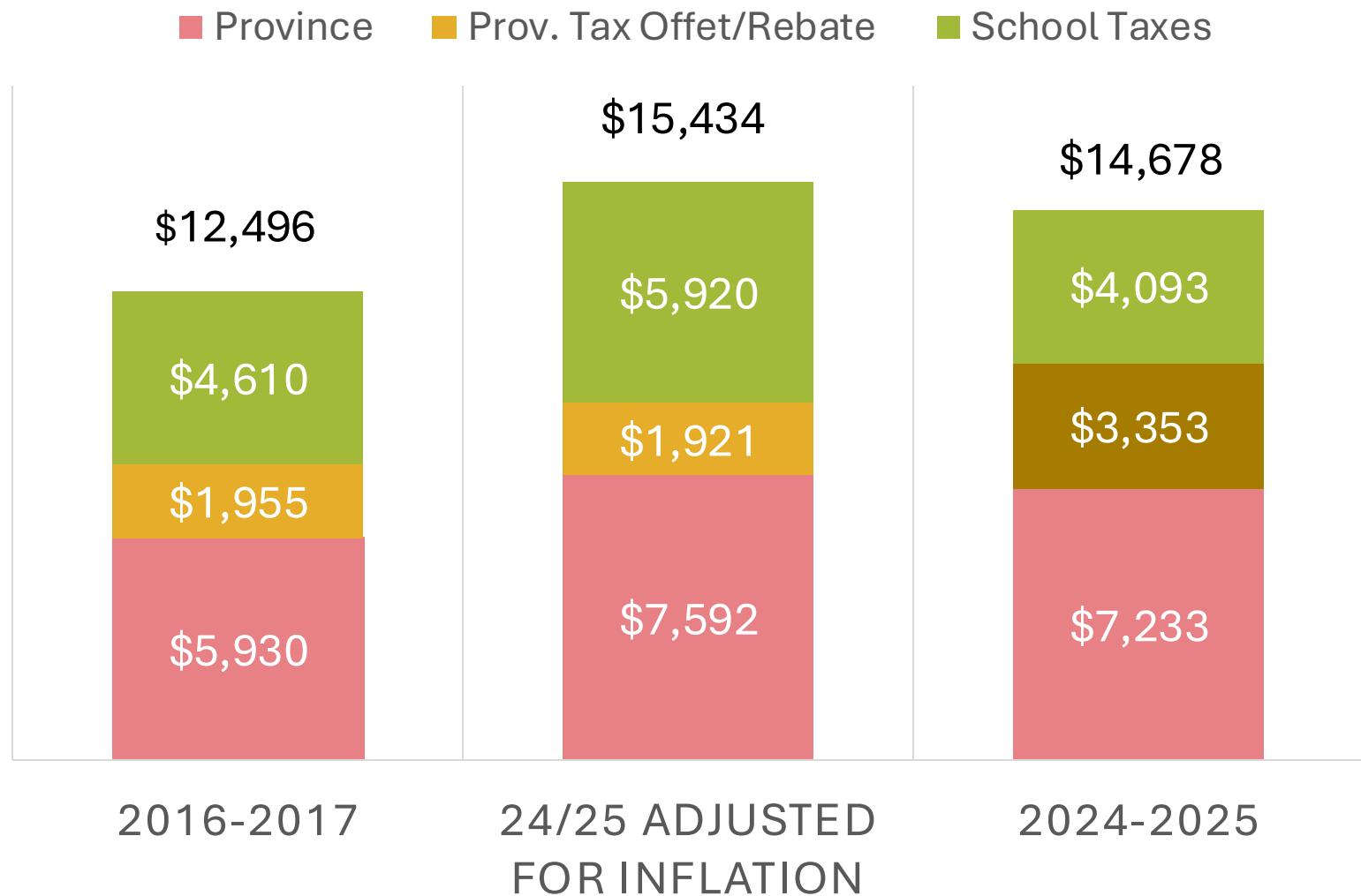


THE COST OF EVERYTHING HAS GONE UP

- Cumulative inflation (2016–2024): 26.37% as per Stats Can CPI
- Peak year (2022): 7.9%—highest rate since 1991
- What inflation affected:
 - Staff salaries and benefits
 - Utilities
 - Learning materials and technology
 - Transportation fuel and bus maintenance
 - Building repairs and construction costs
- The gap:
 - Funding per student has not kept up with inflation



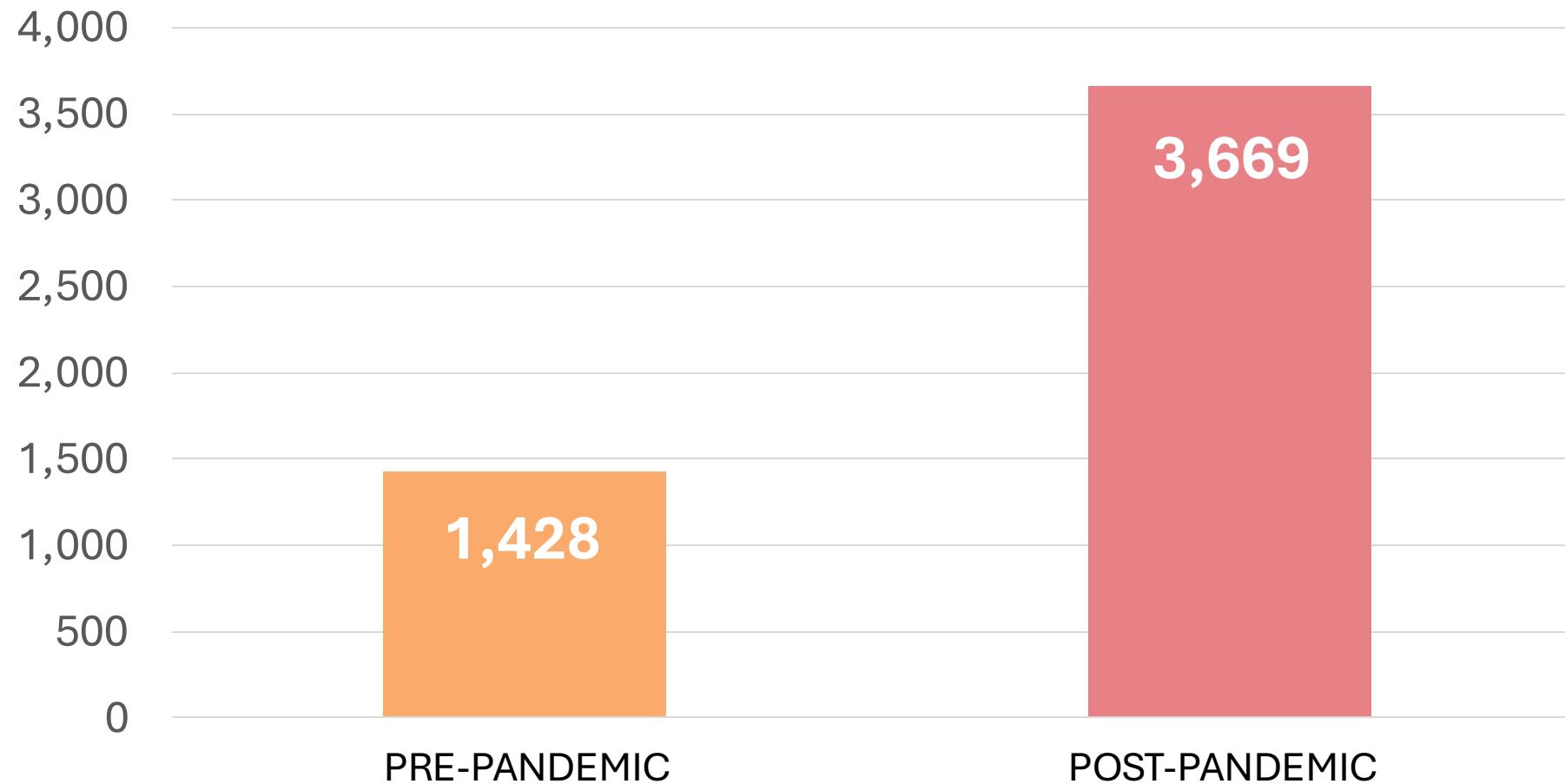
PER STUDENT FUNDING



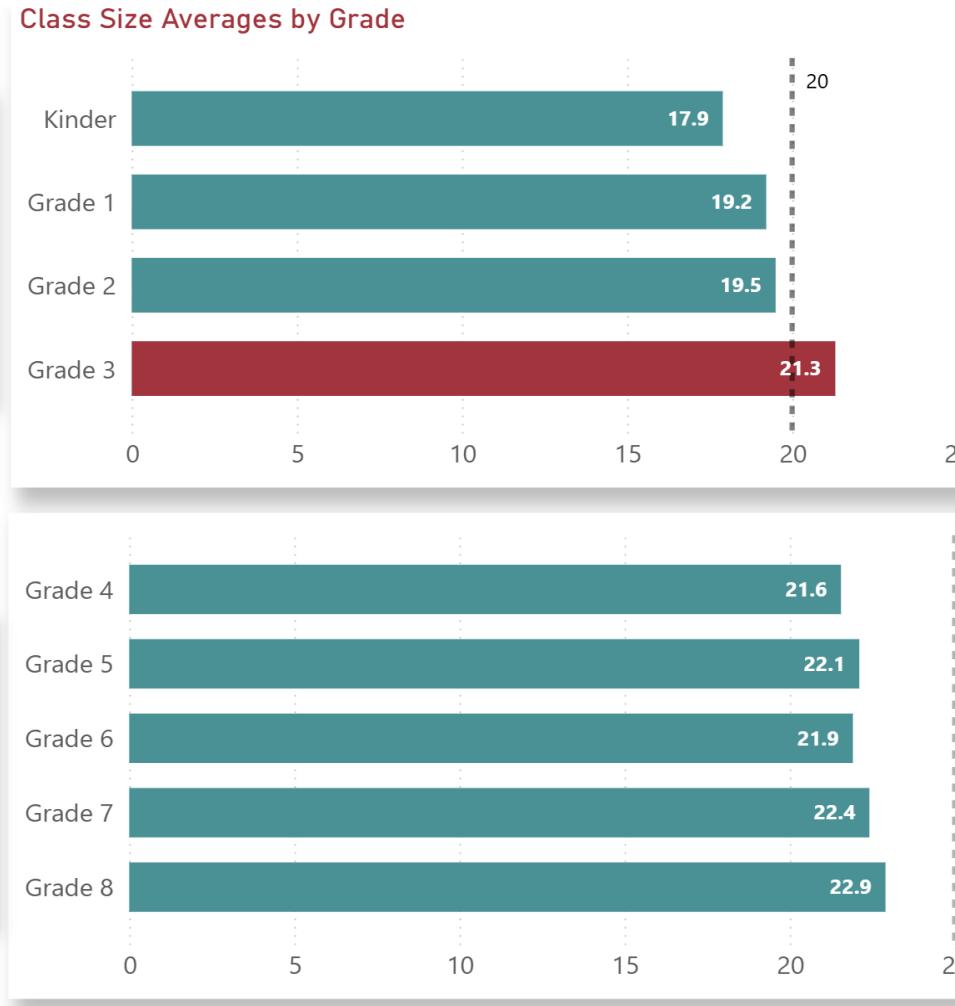
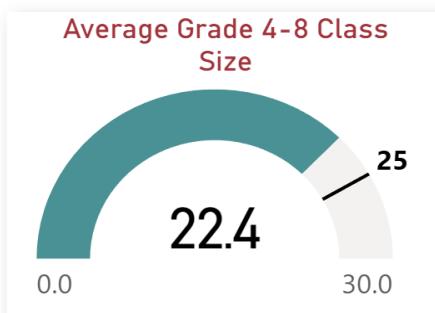
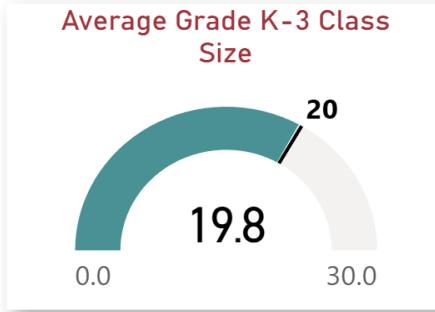
PROVINCIAL SUPPORT HAS IMPROVED, BUT GAPS REMAIN

- Provincial funding increases of **8.10% (2023–24)** and **6.16% (2024–25)** helped
- **The challenge:**
 - These increases mostly filled past gaps rather than creating new capacity
 - Provincial funding increase for 2025–26 dropped to 2.46%—far below cost pressures
- **Local taxpayers stepped up:**
 - 2024–25: 7.5% mill rate increase (~\$150 per average home)
 - 2025–26: 6.43% mill rate increase (~\$193 per average home)
 - We recognize these increases impact on families—but without them, classroom cuts would be unavoidable

1 IN 5 LRSD STUDENTS REQUIRES SPECIALIZED SUPPORT



KEEPING CLASS SIZES MANAGEABLE



Without increases in funding, class sizes will inevitably grow

Program

- English Program
- French Immersion

SUPPORTING STAFF WHILE MANAGING COSTS

- **Teacher provincial wage settlement (2022–2026): 12.85% over four years**
 - This was negotiated province-wide—not unique to LRSD
 - Necessary given inflation which totalled 15.9% over the same period and to remain competitive with other Canadian jurisdictions
- **The \$10.3 million gap:**
 - Settlement included retroactive pay back to 2022
 - No provincial funding was provided for this retroactive amount
 - LRSD paid it entirely from accumulated surplus in October 2024
 - This payment wiped out our financial cushion
- **Why competitive salaries matter:**
 - Manitoba's teacher salaries are mid-range when compared with other provinces
 - We need competitive pay to attract and retain quality educators
 - Teacher shortages are real across Manitoba

AGING SCHOOLS NEED URGENT ATTENTION

- **LRSD's school building age profile:**
 - 3 schools: 100+ years old
 - 4 schools: 75–99 years old
 - 23 schools: 50–74 years old
 - 9 schools: 25–49 years old
 - Two new schools in Sage Creek: 2017 & 2025
- **Major infrastructure challenges:**
 - Aging HVAC systems
(heating, ventilation, air conditioning)
 - Roof repairs and replacements
 - Accessibility upgrades
(elevators, ramps, washrooms)
 - Electrical and plumbing modernisation
 - Energy efficiency improvements

Schools Categories

SEARCH

Search schools... 

Archwood School

Collège Bélieau

Collège Jeanne-Sauvé

Dakota Collegiate

Darwin School

Dr. D.W. Penner School

École George-McDowell

École Guyot

École Henri-Bergeron

École Howden

École Julie-Riel

École Marie-Anne-Gaboury

École Provencher

École Sage Creek Bonavista



ANNUAL SCHOOL BUILDING REVIEW

162

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION HAS ERODED

2022-23: Healthy Financial Position

- Accumulated surplus of \$10.4M (5% of budget, exceeding provincial recommendation of 4%)

2023: Wage Settlement Payment

- \$10.3M paid from reserves to cover retroactive teacher wages—no provincial support

2023-24: Operating Deficit

- Operating deficit of \$2.5M further eroded financial position

June 2025: Accumulated Deficit

- Accumulated deficit of \$2.4M—we're now at \$12.6M below recommended financial reserves

WHY ADEQUATE FUNDING MATTERS

- **Without increases to provincial funding and the local mill rate, the effects will be:**
 - Reductions in:
 - Board Office Staff
 - Classroom Teachers
 - Student Services Teachers
 - Educational Assistants
 - Clinicians
 - Instructional Support & Indigenous Education Teachers
 - Larger class sizes = less individual attention
 - Limited access to supports for the 3,669 students with learning needs, mental health challenges, and complex care requirements (especially critical when 21% require specialized support)
 - Reduced programs
 - Deteriorating facilities that disrupt learning and teaching

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE 2026-27 BUDGET

Student Needs



Funding

COSTS FOR 2026-2027

COSTS	2026-2027	2025-2026	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Wages & Benefits	239,384,688	228,471,396	10,913,292	+4.78%
Supplies & Services	39,310,487	42,842,250	(3,531,763)	-8.24%
Building & Equipment	2,351,025	2,491,500	(140,475)	-5.64%
Total	281,046,200	273,805,146	7,241,054	+2.64%

WHAT DO DIFFERENT FUNDING INCREASES MEAN FOR LRSD?

Provincial Funding of School Programs

Year	Funding Increase	% Increase
2023/24	\$8.0 M	8.10%
2024/25	*\$6.6 M	*6.16%
2025/26	\$2.8 M	2.46%
2026/27	TBD	TBD

Annual Staffing Budget

Year	Cost Increase	% Increase
2023/24	\$9.1 M	5.1%
2024/25	*\$18.6 M	10.0%
2025/26	\$21.1 M	10.2%
2026/27	\$10.9 M	4.78%

*\$1.5 M for the start of a Universal Nutrition Program
Unrestricted operational increase = \$5.1 M or 4.73%

* \$2.2 M for Universal Full-Day Kindergarten

WHAT DO DIFFERENT MILL RATE SCENARIOS MEAN?

Potential Mill Rate Increases

Mill Rate Increase	Resulting Cost Reductions	Example
11.53%	–	No layoffs, no additional staff, and cuts to supplies, services, and maintenance
10.00%	\$5.14 million	Layoffs equivalent to about 57 teachers or 106 EA's
8.00%	\$11.82 million	
6.00%	\$18.50 million	
4.00%	\$25.20 million	



Important: These scenarios assume the very unlikely possibility of no increase in provincial funding. If the province increases funding, the required mill rate increases will be lower.

WHAT DO DIFFERENT MILL RATE SCENARIOS MEAN FOR HOMEOWNERS?

Home Value	Mill Rate Increase of 4%	Mill Rate Increase of 11.53%
\$300,000	-\$28	+\$107
\$423,300 (Average)	+\$1	+\$193
\$600,000	+\$44	+\$314

Even with the maximum increase (11.53%), the average homeowner would pay about **\$193 more per year**—or **~\$16.08/month**—to help protect class sizes, student supports, and school services.

RESPONDING TO THE PRESSURES

Pressure	Details	Response
Inflation	Over the past 9 years, cumulative inflation was 26.37%	Current funding is \$756 per student less today than in 2016/2017 relative to inflation
Enrolment	Over the past 10 years, enrolment increased by 16.3% (2,428 students)	Over the same period, teaching staff increased by 20.6% (201.8), educational assistant staff increased by 31.5% (173.9) and clinical staff increased by 44.7% (15)
Student Needs	Since 2018-19, the number of students requiring specialized supports increased by 157%	Over the same period, teaching staff increased by 20.6% (201.8), educational assistant staff increased by 31.5% (173.9) and clinical staff increased by 44.7% (15)
Wage Escalations	\$21.1 M more in 2025-26 than 2024-25	Depleted reserves to prevent layoffs

YOUR VOICE MATTERS! HERE ARE WAYS TO HELP



**Complete
the Survey**



**Contact
Your Trustee**

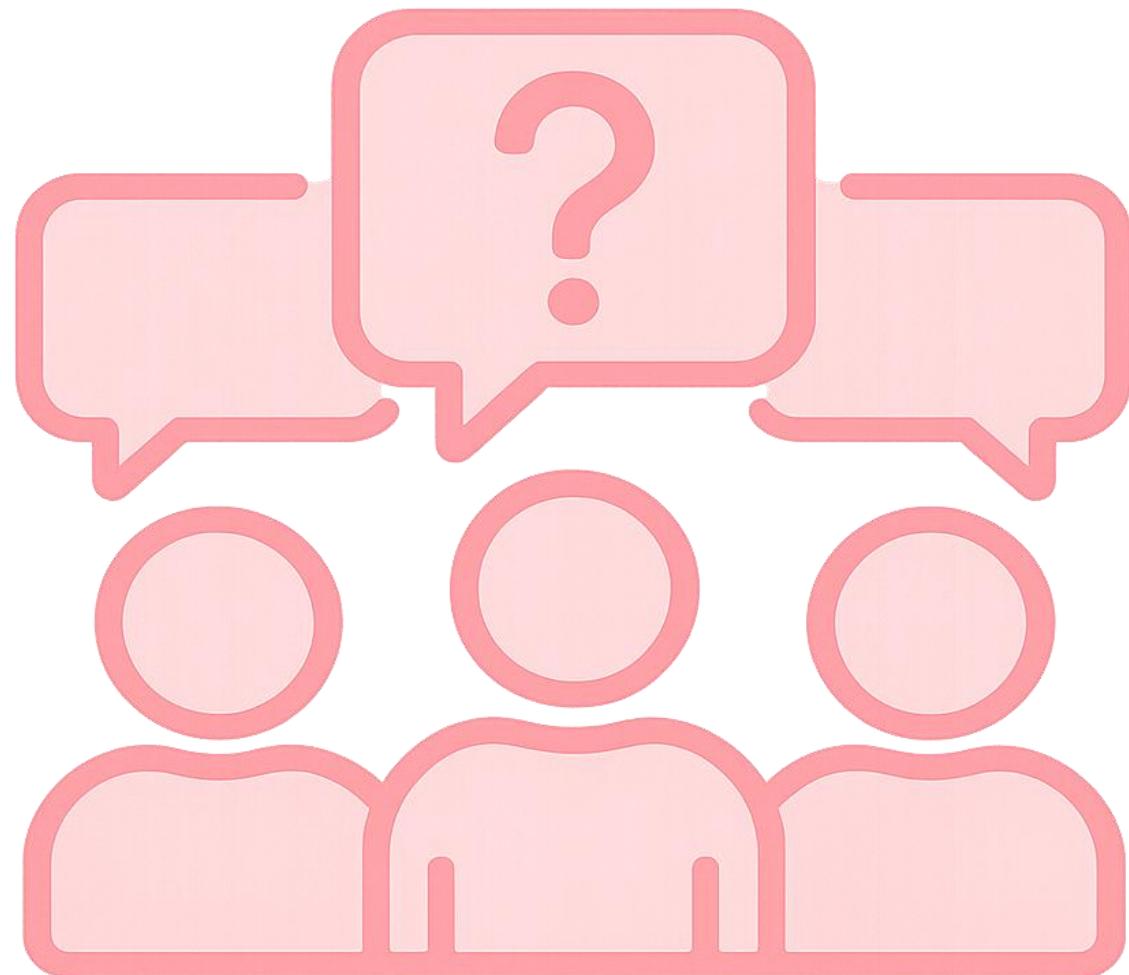


**Advocate
with Us**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Recent provincial funding increases helped but haven't kept pace with the combination of inflation, growing enrolment, greater student needs, and aging infrastructure.
- One in five students requires specialized support—this isn't optional.
- Inflation has eroded buying power—schools cost more to operate.
- Teacher wages are competitive, not unreasonable—but unfunded retroactive pay drained reserves.
- Unionized non-teaching staff wage settlements are actively being negotiated, while a new round of provincial teacher bargaining is about to start.
- Without provincial funding and local property tax increases, class sizes, programs, student supports, and maintenance repairs are at risk; staff will be laid off.

TABLE TALK & QUESTIONS



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING!

- **Your engagement matters:**
 - Your input will help shape the 2026–27 budget
 - Together, we're stronger advocates for our students
- **Next steps:**
 - Complete the budget survey
 - Stay informed through LRSD communications
 - Contact trustees with questions or feedback
 - Advocate with us

SEARCH

Louis Riel
SCHOOL DIVISION

ABOUT US SCHOOLS WHAT WE OFFER SCHOOL BOARD LEADERSHIP EMPLOYMENT CONTACT US

You Are Here: Home > Contact Us

Contact Us



In order to best respond to your concern or question in a timely fashion, we recommend that communication should occur with who can most appropriately resolve your concern or respond to your question. If there is a concern with a student, please first communicate with that student's teacher. If the concern is with a staff member, contact that staff member as a first step. If you're unable to resolve your concern, the next points of contact should be the school's principal/vice-principal, then the [Superintendent](#), then the [School Board](#). You may contact us via the contact form below, or:

In person:	Louis Riel School Division 900 St. Mary's Road Winnipeg, MB R2M 3R3
By telephone:	(204) 257-7827

[Click here for our community of schools.](#)

Contact Form

Your name:

Your email:

Confirm email:

Primary Phone:

Alt Phone 1:

Alt Phone 2:

School Affiliation:

Recipient:

Subject:

Message:

Send

For media inquiries regarding the Louis Riel School Division, please contact the Communications Department:
Communications@lrsd.net

