



BCTF

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Change in the number and composition of students with special needs since 2001–02

Provincial Tables

Enrolment of students with special needs by category:

2001–02 and 2012–13 to 2016–17

Number of students with special needs with and without supplemental funding:

2001–02 to 2016–17

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2001–02 and 2012–13 to 2016–17

Number of students with special needs for categories A–H and categories K, P, Q, and R,

2001–02 and 2012–13 to 2016–17

Provincial Tables

Change in the composition of students with special needs: 2001–02 to 2016–17

Key points

- Over the past fifteen years, enrolment in Special Education programs decreased from 65,926 students in 2001–02 to 59,254 students in 2016–17, a decrease of 6,672 students. Much of this decrease is due to a large decline in students in the Gifted program (-11,797 students).
- Excluding the Gifted program, Special Education student enrolment actually increased by 5,125 students between 2001–02 and 2016–17
- The special needs categories experience the greatest increase in enrolment between 2001–02 and 2016–17 are Autism Spectrum Disorder (+6,936), Physical disability/Chronic health impairment (+3,776), and Learning disability (+3,104).
- While overall enrolment decreased in the category of Moderate Behaviour Support/Mental Illness (-6,578) since 2001–02, the overall enrolment in the category of Intensive Behaviour Interventions/Severe Mental Illness has increased by 1,402 students, from 6,573 in 2001–02 to 7,957 in 2016–17.

Enrolment of students with special needs by category: 2001–02 and 2012–13 to 2016–17¹

Type of special need by designation	01–02	12–13	13–14	14–15	15–16	16–17	Change since 2001–02
Increase in students with special needs since 2001–02							
G. Autism Spectrum Disorder	1,523	6,301	6,750	7,228	7,795	8,459	+6,936
D. Physical Disability/ Chronic Health Impairment	4,517	7,241	7,434	7,695	8,039	8,293	+3,776
Q. Learning Disability	14,804	18,392	18,412	18,058	18,085	17,908	+3,104
H. Intensive Behaviour Interventions/ Severe Mental Illness	6,573	6,970	7,089	7,136	7,370	7,975	+1,402
B. Deafblind	46	67	72	69	69	67	+21

¹ For enrolment statistics for students with special needs by categories, see: BC Ministry of Education. (2004–16). *Student Statistics – (Various Years) Province - Public and Independent Schools Combined*. Victoria: Government of British Columbia. Here after *Student Statistics*. The most current report can be retrieved from www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/province.php.

Decrease in students with special needs since 2001–02							
P. Gifted	16,989	6,550	6,048	5,567	5,224	5,192	-11,797
R. Moderate Behaviour Support/ Mental Illness	12,429	5,769	5,550	5,580	5,759	5,851	-6,578
K. Mild Intellectual Disability	3,862	2,138	2,115	2,076	2,088	2,109	-1,753
C. Moderate to profound Intellectual Disability	2,455	1,886	1,818	1,741	1,654	1,565	-890
F. Deaf or Hard of Hearing	1,530	1,146	1,098	1,080	1,047	1,052	-478
A. Physically Dependent	773	570	539	517	497	493	-280
E. Visual Impairment	425	336	317	313	313	290	-135
Total	65,926	57,366	57,242	57,060	57,940	59,254	-6,672
Total (without Gifted)	48,937	50,81	51,194	51,493	52,716	54,062	5,125

Students with special needs with and without supplemental funding— Provincial Operating Grants: 2001–02 to 2016–17

Key points

- School districts receive a funding supplement for students designated in special needs categories A–H in addition to the base per-student allocation. The amount of funding has changed throughout the years and depends on the category. In 2016–17, the funding was \$37,700 for each student in Level 1 (Categories A, B), \$18,850 for each in Level 2 (Categories C, D, E, F, G), and \$9,200 for each in Level 3 (Category H)².
- The total number of students with special needs in Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 have increased by 10,352, from 17,842 students in 2001–02 to 28,194 students in 2016–17.
- The opposite was the case for students with special needs who do not receive a funding supplement outside of the base allocation. The total number of students in these categories (K, P, Q, and R) decreased from 48,084 in 2001–02 to 31,060 in 2016–17.

Number of students with special needs with and without supplemental funding: 2001–02 to 2016–17³

School Year	Supplemental funding provided in addition to base allocation (Categories A–H)		Funding supplied within base allocation after 2000–01 (Categories K, P, Q, and R)		Total number of students with special needs
	# of students	% of all public school students	# of students	% of all public school students	
2001–02	17,842	2.8%	48,084	7.6%	65,926
2002–03	18,358	3.0%	44,144	7.1%	62,502
2003–04	19,272	3.1%	41,972	6.8%	61,244
2004–05	20,141	3.3%	41,842	6.9%	61,983
2005–06	20,885	3.5%	40,392	6.7%	61,277
2006–07	21,181	3.6%	37,406	6.4%	58,587
2007–08	21,616	3.7%	35,737	6.1%	57,353
2008–09	22,646	3.9%	35,269	6.1%	57,915
2009–10	23,854	4.1%	34,847	6.0%	58,701
2010–11	24,260	4.2%	34,060	5.9%	58,320
2011–12	24,029	4.2%	33,120	5.8%	57,149
2012–13	24,517	4.3%	32,849	5.8%	57,366
2013–14	25,117	4.5%	32,125	5.7%	57,242
2014–15	25,779	4.7%	31,281	5.7%	57,060
2015–16	26,784	4.8%	31,156	5.6%	57,940
2016–17	28,194	5.1%	31,060	5.6%	59,254

² BC Ministry of Education. (2016). *Operating Grants Manual—2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19*. Victoria: Government of British Columbia.

³ *Student Statistics*.

Total change 2001–02 to 2016–17					
# of students	10,352		-17,024		-6,672
% of students	+58.0%	+2.2%	-35.4%	-2.1%	-10.12%

The categories for special education are as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. Physically Dependent | G. Autism Spectrum Disorder |
| B. Deafblind | H. Intensive Behaviour Interventions/Severe Mental Illness |
| C. Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability | K. Mild Intellectual Disability |
| D. Physical Disability/Chronic Health Impairment | P. Gifted |
| E. Visual Impairment | Q. Learning Disability |
| F. Deaf or Hard of Hearing | R. Moderate Behaviour Support/Mental Illness |

District tables

Students with special needs (headcount): 2001–02, 2012–13 to 2016–17⁴

SD #	SD Name	2001–02	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	# change 2001–02 to 2016–17	% change 2001–02 to 2016–17
005	Southeast Kootenay	820	551	582	608	672	742	-78	-9.5%
006	Rocky Mountain	571	265	254	255	268	265	-306	-53.6%
008	Kootenay Lake	592	385	351	329	358	373	-219	-37.0%
010	Arrow Lakes	100	47	52	44	48	45	-55	-55.0%
019	Revelstoke	132	183	178	175	178	167	35	26.5%
020	Kootenay-Columbia	651	379	389	392	346	365	-286	-43.9%
022	Vernon	1,080	620	634	634	619	754	-326	-30.2%
023	Central Okanagan	2,567	1,746	1,841	1,898	2,039	2,200	-367	-14.3%
027	Cariboo-Chilcotin	762	322	301	293	334	346	-416	-54.6%
028	Quesnel	602	325	369	331	303	292	-310	-51.5%
033	Chilliwack	1,325	1,246	1,365	1,503	1,675	1,778	453	34.2%
034	Abbotsford	1,933	3,208	1,711	1,724	1,732	1,808	-125	-6.5%
035	Langley	1,737	2,121	2,176	2,242	2,231	2,392	655	37.7%
036	Surrey	5,554	6,860	6,994	7,030	7,233	7,433	1,879	33.8%
037	Delta	1,739	2,106	2,151	2,120	2,131	2,080	341	19.6%
038	Richmond	2,267	1,598	1,645	1,583	1,528	1,480	-787	-34.7%
039	Vancouver	7,221	5,496	5,295	5,235	5,199	5,147	-2,074	-28.7%
040	New Westminster	652	556	557	551	538	538	-114	-17.5%
041	Burnaby	2,178	2,103	2,143	2,131	2,186	2,190	12	0.6%
042	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	1,393	1,560	1,569	1,589	1,667	1,782	389	27.9%
043	Coquitlam	2,927	4,752	4,861	4,891	4,966	4,978	2,051	70.1%
044	North Vancouver	1,774	1,832	1,745	1,718	1,873	1,878	104	5.9%
045	West Vancouver	538	476	496	480	519	536	-2	-0.4%
046	Sunshine Coast	703	597	614	596	648	623	-80	-11.4%
047	Powell River	310	324	331	318	297	320	10	3.2%
048	Sea to Sky	631	497	444	440	439	416	-215	-34.1%
049	Central Coast	130	16	17	22	29	26	-104	-80.0%
050	Haida Gwai'i	94	81	79	86	77	89	-5	-5.3%

⁴ Student Statistics.

SD #	SD Name	2001–02	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	# change 2001–02 to 2016–17	% change 2001–02 to 2016–17
051	Boundary	225	111	113	131	134	178	-47	-20.9%
052	Prince Rupert	455	273	260	248	237	221	-234	-51.4%
053	Okanagan Similkameen	325	291	293	277	279	307	-18	-5.5%
054	Bulkley Valley	316	198	215	202	199	202	-114	-36.1%
057	Prince George	3,360	1,225	1,238	1,308	1,245	1,303	-2,057	-61.2%
058	Nicola-Similkameen	401	280	284	279	259	253	-148	-36.9%
059	Peace River South	701	264	299	295	325	334	-367	-52.4%
060	Peace River North	551	547	543	549	589	556	5	0.9%
061	Greater Victoria	2,414	2,162	2,165	2,125	2,125	2,202	-212	-8.8%
062	Sooke	1,011	1,153	1,075	1,033	1,092	1,172	161	15.9%
063	Saanich	956	971	875	822	838	849	-107	-11.2%
064	Gulf Islands	187	203	175	162	162	181	-6	-3.2%
067	Okanagan Skaha	1,053	952	788	694	627	575	-478	-45.4%
068	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	1,728	1,281	1,211	1,102	1,051	1,056	-672	-38.9%
069	Qualicum	856	454	438	452	431	443	-413	-48.2%
070	Alberni	697	493	479	539	485	424	-273	-39.2%
071	Comox Valley	1,009	1,059	956	983	941	892	-117	-11.6%
072	Campbell River	718	577	587	565	565	601	-117	-16.3%
073	Kamloops Thompson	1,747	1,278	1,323	1,379	1,425	1,498	-249	-14.3%
074	Gold Trail	295	131	133	135	127	113	-182	-61.7%
075	Mission	850	586	517	518	592	632	-218	-25.6%
078	Fraser-Cascade	250	212	213	203	220	223	-27	-10.8%
079	Cowichan Valley	1,135	959	901	877	883	978	-157	-13.8%
081	Fort Nelson	144	70	68	56	68	64	-80	-55.6%
082	Coast Mountains	750	749	669	627	600	583	-167	-22.3%
083	North Okanagan-Shuswap	1,289	990	929	891	869	939	-350	-27.2%
084	Vancouver Island West	143	85	74	82	77	87	-56	-39.2%
085	Vancouver Island North	326	219	230	235	238	236	-90	-27.6%
087	Stikine	92	25	27	33	41	33	-59	-64.1%
091	Nechako Lakes	659	510	564	582	620	640	-19	-2.9%
092	Nisga'a	180	56	51	45	44	41	-139	-77.2%
093	Conseil scolaire francophone	120	320	405	413	419	395	275	229.2%
	Provincial	65,926	57,366	57,242	57,060	57,940	59,254	-6,672	-10.1%

Number of students with special needs for categories A–H* and categories K, P, Q, and R**, 2001–02 and 2012–13 to 2016–17⁵

SD #	SD Name	2001–02		2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
		A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R
005	Southeast Kootenay	237	583	316	235	342	240	341	267	397	275	411	331
006	Rocky Mountain	234	337	149	116	138	116	141	114	169	99	166	99
008	Kootenay Lake	228	364	223	162	206	145	205	124	222	136	243	130
010	Arrow Lakes	27	73	18	29	22	30	19	25	22	26	19	26
019	Revelstoke	29	103	36	147	37	141	35	140	45	133	51	116
020	Kootenay-Columbia	190	461	169	210	158	231	179	213	144	202	164	201
022	Vernon	279	801	320	300	322	312	326	308	313	306	477	277
023	Central Okanagan	564	2,003	859	887	963	878	987	911	1,055	984	1,103	1,097
027	Cariboo-Chilcotin	169	593	187	135	174	127	174	119	195	139	197	149
028	Quesnel	173	429	157	168	164	205	159	172	162	141	157	135
033	Chilliwack	396	929	589	657	673	692	794	709	938	737	986	792
034	Abbotsford	543	1,390	1,640	1,568	881	830	894	830	953	779	1,067	741
035	Langley	540	1,197	829	1,292	875	1,301	937	1,305	958	1,273	1,034	1,358
036	Surrey	1,213	4,341	2,952	3,908	3,170	3,824	3,310	3,720	3,512	3,721	3,752	3,681
037	Delta	570	1,169	848	1,258	883	1,268	939	1,181	994	1,137	1,012	1,068
038	Richmond	518	1,749	714	884	751	894	720	863	701	827	702	778
039	Vancouver	1,477	5,744	2,431	3,065	2,361	2,934	2,373	2,862	2,376	2,823	2,267	2,880
040	New Westminster	208	444	329	227	326	231	324	227	321	217	307	231
041	Burnaby	696	1,482	944	1,159	945	1,198	959	1,172	1,040	1,146	1,062	1,128
042	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	503	890	724	836	716	853	725	864	754	913	775	1,007
043	Coquitlam	786	2,141	979	3,773	1,031	3,830	1,067	3,824	1,179	3,787	1,220	3,758
044	North Vancouver	408	1,366	587	1,245	586	1,159	594	1,124	646	1,227	662	1,216
045	West Vancouver	112	426	156	320	164	332	166	314	165	354	193	343
046	Sunshine Coast	282	421	397	200	427	187	413	183	421	227	419	204
047	Powell River	104	206	195	129	212	119	195	123	188	109	208	112
048	Sea to Sky	155	476	284	213	273	171	278	162	283	156	287	129
049	Central Coast	39	91	9	7	9	8	10	12	13	16	9	17
050	Haida Gwai'i	32	62	43	38	41	38	34	52	28	49	27	62
051	Boundary	79	146	56	55	59	54	73	58	67	67	72	106
052	Prince Rupert	168	287	150	123	144	116	128	120	111	126	105	116
053	Okanagan Similkameen	114	211	129	162	133	160	117	160	126	153	154	153
054	Bulkley Valley	101	215	74	124	83	132	72	130	78	121	79	123

⁵ Student Statistics.

SD #	SD Name	2001-02		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R	A-H	K, P, Q, and R
057	Prince George	494	2,866	706	519	696	542	803	505	785	460	897	406
058	Nicola-Similkameen	137	264	122	158	125	159	131	148	107	152	95	158
059	Peace River South	214	487	154	110	157	142	141	154	146	179	163	171
060	Peace River North	171	380	217	330	237	306	256	293	277	312	280	276
061	Greater Victoria	854	1,560	912	1,250	929	1,236	980	1,145	1,021	1,104	1,117	1,085
062	Sooke	398	613	454	699	452	623	456	577	492	600	511	661
063	Saanich	302	654	444	527	410	465	411	411	417	421	439	410
064	Gulf Islands	67	120	124	79	90	85	84	78	85	77	104	77
067	Okanagan Skaha	281	772	339	613	318	470	315	379	291	336	286	289
068	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	538	1,190	640	641	645	566	631	471	628	423	658	398
069	Qualicum	226	630	198	256	190	248	199	253	187	244	227	216
070	Alberni	235	462	215	278	220	259	240	299	221	264	172	252
071	Comox Valley	274	735	442	617	445	511	407	576	393	548	389	503
072	Campbell River	230	488	294	283	299	288	293	272	291	274	341	260
073	Kamloops Thompson	590	1,157	608	670	668	655	717	662	749	676	787	711
074	Gold Trail	127	168	55	76	56	77	56	79	57	70	51	62
075	Mission	179	671	252	334	257	260	283	235	334	258	368	264
078	Fraser-Cascade	61	189	106	106	115	98	118	85	129	91	124	99
079	Cowichan Valley	271	864	269	690	255	646	273	604	287	596	389	589
081	Fort Nelson	31	113	51	19	49	19	46	10	53	15	41	23
082	Coast Mountains	240	510	232	517	238	431	245	382	235	365	243	340
083	North Okanagan-Shuswap	385	904	406	584	388	541	369	522	361	508	393	546
084	Vancouver Island West	36	107	29	56	26	48	29	53	26	51	40	47
085	Vancouver Island North	111	215	72	147	82	148	86	149	92	146	90	146
087	Stikine	28	64	13	12	11	16	11	22	10	31	7	26
091	Nechako Lakes	111	548	290	220	339	225	363	219	382	238	409	231
092	Nisga'a	55	125	34	22	28	23	17	28	14	30	14	27
093	Conseil scolaire francophone	22	98	127	193	123	282	131	282	138	281	172	223
	Provincial	17,842	48,084	24,517	32,849	25,117	32,125	25,779	31,281	26,784	31,156	28,194	31,060