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# BCTF Research Report

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## International students in BC, 2012–13

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### **International-student-fee revenue to school boards continues to grow in 2012–13**

Tuition revenue from overseas students studying in BC K-12 schools grew by more than \$7.6 million in 2012–13 over 2011–12. The increase comes primarily from an additional 400 students, increasing the number to 9,680 full-time-equivalents (FTE) (see charts on pp. 3–4).

The actual number of individual international students who studied in BC schools is over 10,000, but not all stayed for a full school year, and the number reported for funding purposes is based on full-time equivalents.

The pattern of growth in numbers of students each year and fee revenue has continued over the past dozen years, except for the years of the global economic downturn of 2008 and 2009. Total revenue has more than doubled since 2001–02, both from increased numbers of students and increased annual fees charged by school districts.

### **Unequal and uncertain revenues**

A handful of districts in three regions get most of the students and revenues: the Lower Mainland, the southern part of Vancouver Island, and the Okanagan. Smaller districts in the North and the Interior have less success in attracting these students. A dozen districts get no revenue from international students and another thirteen receive less than \$120,000 a year.

Quesnel in the Interior, and districts in the East Kootenay area, attracted more than other districts outside the main population centers.

Uncertainty about the amount of tuition-fee revenue available in any given year is an ongoing dilemma for school districts. Events with a global impact can reduce revenues, such as the economic downturn of 2008 and 2009. This is beyond the ability of districts to build into plans.

Also, even when the total fee revenue for the province grows, some districts gain students and revenue and others lose.

A prime example of this is Coquitlam. Over the most-recent three years, Coquitlam's revenue has decreased by \$1.5 million (see table on p. 5). This is one factor in the significant deficit in the district budget in the 2012–13 school year. The district lost its place as the top earner of fees, while Vancouver took its place at the top, bringing in \$16.1 million.

West Vancouver drew \$1 million less in revenue from the previous year, but is still at the top in relationship to the size of the district.

## **How do school districts use the tuition revenue from international students?**

School districts charge more in tuition for each international student than they get from the province for each Canadian student. Each board decides how the funding will be used; no provincial guidelines exist.

How the funds are used varies substantially from district to district, and even within districts. Some schools get a significant portion of the extra revenue to support school activities. Some classrooms get extra resources if there is an international student in the class. In other cases, the district uses all or nearly all the amounts on a district basis. Reports from teachers indicate that little specialized English Language Learner support is assigned to international students.

No standard exists for how the funds should be expended or reported. Requiring a more-detailed financial report on expenditures by districts would be a positive step in making the impact of international students more transparent.

Boards generally do not report how much they are paying to agents in other countries to recruit students, or on the recruitment costs when BC administrators travel overseas.

Recruitment agents may well exaggerate the benefits when trying to sell overseas parents on particular districts, creating problems for the school district and teachers in not being able to meet expectations that they don't even know about. A standard description of programs and contracts for agents might reduce some problems of overpromising what students are likely to achieve.

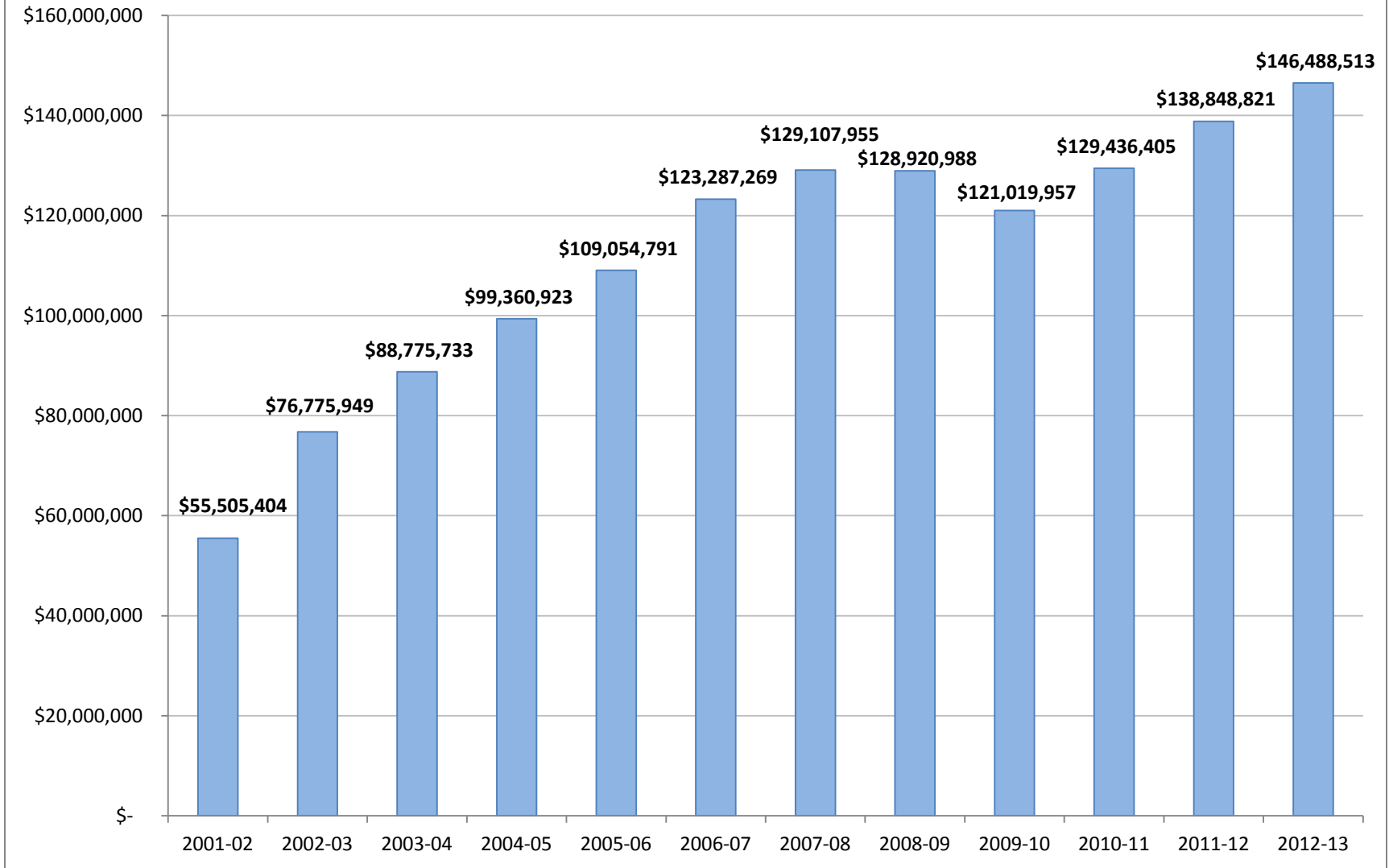
## **More than 450 teaching positions for international students**

Districts are required to identify the number of teachers and other staff employed as a result of the international programs when they report on staffing each September 30. As of September 2012, for the school year covered in this report, the number of teachers reported by boards as staff for international students was 457.21 FTE<sup>1</sup>. This would be an estimate only, since very few teachers have only international students—most international students are just added to already-existing classes. However, the number of teachers reported does indicate how much boards think they are spending on teaching staff of the total they receive from the international student revenue.

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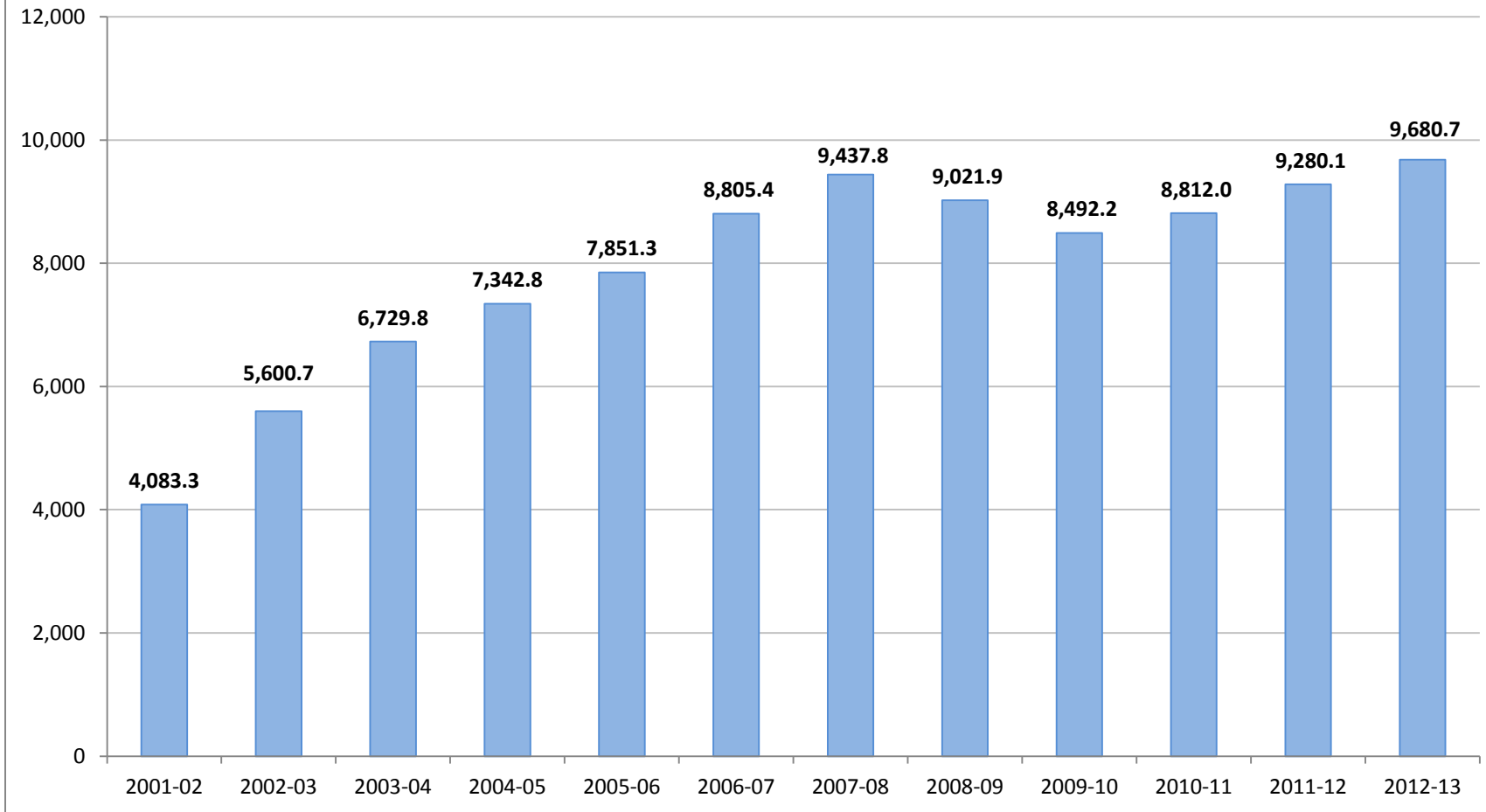
<sup>1</sup> From unpublished Form 1530 data, prepared by Information Department, BC Ministry of Education, March 11, 2013, File 20110310.

### Fee revenue from international students, 2001-02 to 2012-13



Source: For 2012–13: Schedule 2A, “Schedule of Operating Revenue by Source,” as of June 30, 2013, and equivalent schedules in previous years, in school district audited financial statements, available on district websites.

**International-student FTE enrolment in BC, 2001-02 to 2012-13**



Source: Ministry of Education student enrolment data, various years, <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/province.php> .

## BC international-student tuition-fee revenue, 2010–11 to 2012–13

SD #	District Name	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13
5	Southeast Kootenay	\$1,361,164	\$1,376,589	\$1,428,396
6	Rocky Mountain	\$1,482,885	\$1,392,733	\$1,773,823
8	Kootenay Lake	\$1,290,693	\$1,335,453	\$1,438,400
10	Arrow Lakes	\$9,000	\$0	\$0
19	Revelstoke	\$9,500	\$53,200	\$65,375
20	Kootenay-Columbia	\$200,988	\$76,520	\$117,830
22	Vernon	\$4,284,770	\$4,708,307	\$4,266,498
23	Central Okanagan	\$1,464,107	\$2,472,931	\$3,032,772
27	Cariboo-Chilcotin	\$54,155	\$27,000	\$20,000
28	Quesnel	\$421,730	\$476,745	\$617,345
33	Chilliwack	\$1,158,249	\$1,000,489	\$1,045,440
34	Abbotsford	\$3,760,481	\$3,559,139	\$3,950,496
35	Langley	\$6,007,178	\$6,233,926	\$5,779,030
36	Surrey	\$8,007,341	\$8,085,587	\$8,939,408
37	Delta	\$3,374,775	\$4,335,274	\$5,651,162
38	Richmond	\$6,285,926	\$8,552,429	\$9,928,771
39	Vancouver	\$13,497,843	\$14,139,911	\$16,107,053
40	New Westminster	\$2,271,783	\$2,697,118	\$2,742,659
41	Burnaby	\$9,508,931	\$11,629,577	\$12,944,649
42	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	\$8,859,462	\$8,801,231	\$6,346,477
43	Coquitlam	\$15,370,648	\$14,909,703	\$14,031,182
44	North Vancouver	\$7,835,473	\$7,160,305	\$6,881,135
45	West Vancouver	\$7,950,427	\$8,513,793	\$7,583,296
46	Sunshine Coast	\$96,241	\$83,750	\$100,300
47	Powell River	\$227,881	\$325,350	\$268,059
48	Howe Sound	\$1,003,779	\$1,208,410	\$1,736,700
49	Central Coast	\$0	\$0	\$0
50	Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte	\$0	\$0	\$0
51	Boundary	\$0	\$20,600	\$41,450
52	Prince Rupert	\$12,000	\$24,000	\$24,500
53	Okanagan Similkameen	\$0	\$0	\$0
54	Bulkley Valley	\$0	\$0	\$21,000
57	Prince George	\$99,900	\$129,100	\$121,500
58	Nicola-Similkameen	\$6,000	\$0	\$0
59	Peace River South	\$133,180	\$88,732	\$123,527
60	Peace River North	\$190,857	\$306,844	\$378,137
61	Greater Victoria	\$8,732,967	\$9,196,129	\$9,611,422
62	Sooke	\$1,984,779	\$1,924,727	\$2,594,083
63	Saanich	\$2,397,878	\$3,083,207	\$3,910,900
64	Gulf Islands	\$617,545	\$540,670	\$636,475
67	Okanagan Skaha	\$266,454	\$276,759	\$294,736
68	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	\$2,282,064	\$2,665,823	\$3,036,473
69	Qualicum	\$1,811,170	\$1,993,099	\$2,146,774
70	Alberni	\$1,250	\$187,813	\$99,750
71	Comox Valley	\$1,427,759	\$1,871,085	\$2,890,229
72	Campbell River	\$352,511	\$213,760	\$304,800
73	Kamloops Thompson	\$1,114,422	\$1,093,401	\$1,487,385
74	Gold Trail	\$0	\$0	\$0
75	Mission	\$1,217,101	\$885,022	\$937,875
78	Fraser-Cascade	\$46,209	\$11,550	\$36,690
79	Cowichan Valley	\$857,100	\$1,130,200	\$943,350
81	Fort Nelson	\$22,000	\$0	\$0
82	Coast Mountains	\$6,000	\$6,100	\$0
83	North Okanagan-Shuswap	\$44,249	\$37,730	\$26,701
84	Vancouver Island West	\$0	\$0	\$0
85	Vancouver Island North	\$0	\$0	\$0
87	Stikine	\$0	\$0	\$0
91	Nechako Lakes	\$17,600	\$7,000	\$24,500
92	Nisga'a	\$0	\$0	\$0
93	Francophone Education Authority	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$129,436,405</b>	<b>\$138,848,821</b>	<b>\$146,488,513</b>

Source: For 2012–13: Schedule 2A, “Schedule of Operating Revenue by Source,” as of June 30, 2013, and equivalent schedules in previous years, in school district audited financial statements, available on district websites.