

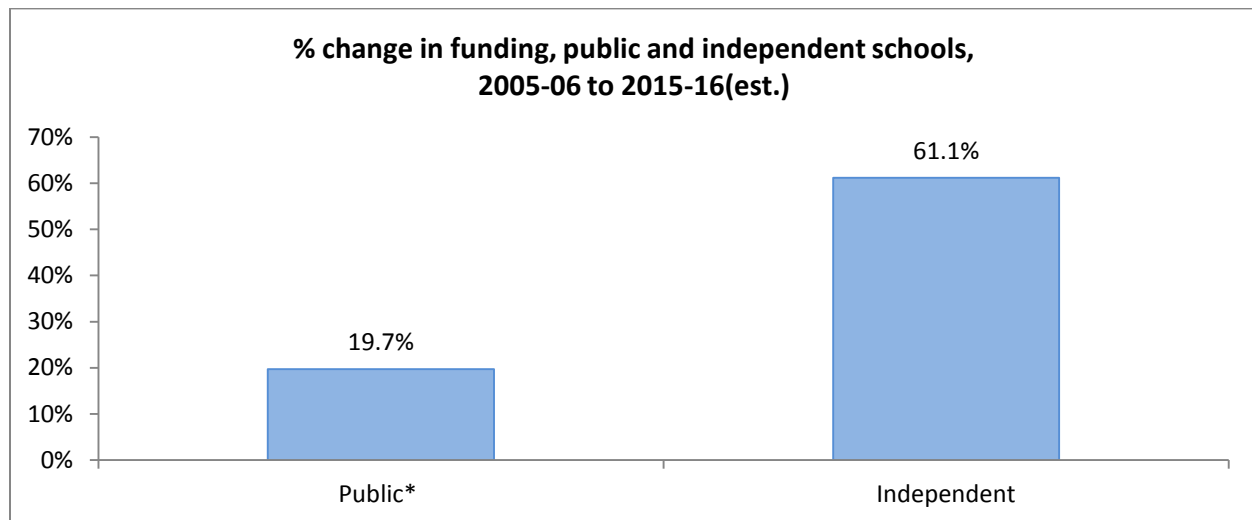
Budget 2015—How has independent schools funding changed?

bctf.ca/publications.aspx?id=5630

By Margaret White, Research Analyst
February 2015

Over the last ten years

Funding for independent schools increased by \$118 million in the last ten years, from \$193 million in 2005–06 to \$311 million in 2014–15—an increase of 61.1%. In contrast, public schools funding increased by 19.7% over the same period.



* Public schools funding includes Instruction, Administration, and Learning Improvement Fund.

Source: BCTF calculations and chart, figures from Ministry of Education. (February 17, 2015). *Ministry of Education Budget 2015 Overview, February 2015*, pp. 3–4.

Over the next three years (Budget 2015 fiscal plan: 2015–16 to 2017–18)

Budget 2015 funding estimates show independent schools funding will increase by \$29.8 million in 2015–16, \$47.6 million in 2016–17, and \$16.3 million in 2017–18, for a total of \$93.7 million (33.4%) over the three-year fiscal plan.

Independent schools (\$ millions)	2014–15 restated Estimates*	2015–16 Estimates	2016–17 Plan	2017–18 Plan	Over 3 years	
Independent schools funding	\$280,700	\$310,500	\$358,100	\$374,400		
Change yr-to-yr and over 3 years		\$29,800	\$47,600	\$16,300	\$93,700	33.4%

See the table, overleaf, for independent schools funding for the years 2005–06 to 2017–18. It shows that independent schools funding in British Columbia will almost double by 2017–18 compared to 2005–06. Public funding for private schools will increase from \$193 million in 2005–06 to an estimated \$374 million in 2017–18 (Plan), an increase of \$181 million (93.8%).

Independent schools funding (\$ millions): 2005–06 to 2017–18 (Plan)

Year	Year over year change		
	(\$ millions)		
	\$ amount	\$ change	% change
2005–06	\$ 193	-----	-----
2006–07	\$ 207	\$ 14	7.25%
2007–08	\$ 223	\$ 16	7.73%
2008–09	\$ 243	\$ 20	8.97%
2009–10	\$ 248	\$ 5	2.06%
2010–11	\$ 258	\$ 10	4.03%
2011–12	\$ 265	\$ 7	2.71%
2012–13	\$ 267	\$ 2	0.75%
2013–14	\$ 281	\$ 14	5.24%
2014–15	\$ 281	-----	0%
2015–16 (est.)	\$ 311	\$ 30	10.68%
2016–17 Plan	\$ 358	\$ 47	15.1%
2017–18 Plan	\$ 374	\$ 16	4.5%
Change 2005–06 to 2014–15 (est.)	-----	\$ 118	61.1%
Change 2005–06 to 2017–18 (Plan)	-----	\$ 181	93.8%

Source: BCTF calculations, figures up to 2015–16 from Ministry of Education. (February 17, 2015). *Ministry of Education Budget 2015 Overview, February 2015*, pp. 3–4.

Figures for 2016–17 and 2017–18 from: Ministry of Education. Resource Summary Table, *2015/16 to 2017/18 Service Plan*, p. 13 (February 2015).

Other ministry data indicate funding for independent schools is even higher

It is unclear why historical data for independent schools funding amounts in the *Ministry of Education Budget 2015 Overview* differ from the amounts stated in the table *Ministry of Education – Independent Schools: Enrolment and Funding Data*. The following table shows the funding amounts from each document for the years 2009–10 to 2013–14. Budget 2015 funding totals are consistently lower than the total funding amounts in the *Ministry of Education Enrolment and Funding Data*, and the difference widens with each subsequent year.

Year	Independent Schools: Enrolment and Funding Data			Budget 2015 Data	Difference (\$ millions)
	Operating grants	Special Purpose grants	Total (\$ millions)	Total (\$ millions)	
2009–10	\$222	\$29	\$251	\$248	(\$3)
2010–11	\$231	\$39	\$270	\$258	(\$12)
2011–12	\$239	\$45	\$284	\$265	(\$19)
2012–13	\$246	\$50	\$296	\$267	(\$29)
2013–14	\$257	\$57	\$315	\$281	(\$34)

* Figures are rounded. Special Purpose grants include Special Education, Funding Protection for 2011–12 (\$941,824), and Other grants.

Sources: Ministry of Education. (February 17, 2015). *Ministry of Education Budget 2015 Overview, February 2015*, pp. 3–4, and *Ministry of Education – Independent Schools: Enrolment and Funding Data*. Accessed online, February 2, 2015, at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/independentschools/is_resources/enrolment_funding_summary.pdf.

RR2015-02

2015-02-20
MW:af:tfu