



Class size and composition:

Smaller classes for all students and better support for kids with special needs. The benefits include:

- more personal attention for each child
- more time spent on instruction and learning
- fewer discipline problems
- greater access to teachers, both during class and after school hours
- an increased share of overall education resources for each student
- more physical space for movement.

Kids matter Teachers care

Increase investment in public education

Education funding as a percentage of the provincial budget has declined from 26% to 15%. BC's per-pupil funding has fallen dramatically behind that of other provinces. Costs of running the public education system continue to rise and the expectations of schools have significantly increased.

- Reverse the decline in K–12 spending as a percentage of the total provincial budget and as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, and restore education funding to 1991 levels.
- Fully fund the implementation of new curriculum and all new ministry initiatives.
- Fully fund mentoring and professional development programs requested by teachers to assist in supporting all students.

Full-scope collective bargaining rights

Collective bargaining has been an important tool in building our excellent public education system.

The BCTF and its locals are proud of the role we have played at the bargaining table in negotiating improvements for students' learning conditions and teachers' working conditions alike.

- Encourage, support, and fund school boards to enable them to work with teachers to successfully bargain a collective agreement and resolve issues locally.
- Restore full, free collective bargaining rights for teachers.



For more information go to bctf.ca.

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BETTER SCHOOLS FOR BC



**A Plan for
Quality
Public
Education**



Better Schools for BC: A Plan for Quality Public Education

A strong public education system that provides equal opportunities for all is fundamental to democracy.

Teachers are proud of the role we have played in shaping and defending our world-class system. But public education is never static, and is always evolving to meet social change. As we confront the accelerating pace of change in the 21st century, we must continue to strive to improve our system. Teachers are committed to doing our part in this important work.

Inside you will find an outline of the building blocks and the recommendations to make our great BC public school system even better.





A child poverty reduction plan

A child's performance in school is strongly related to socio-economic status and a good education is often the only means of breaking the cycle of poverty for poor children.

- Launch a comprehensive and accountable poverty reduction plan, with targets and timelines, aimed at eliminating child poverty in our province.
- Launch a comprehensive and accountable homelessness action plan, with targets and timelines, aimed at eliminating homelessness in our province.

Learning specialist teachers in every school

Specialist teachers bring additional expertise to the school community and support colleagues and students alike.

- Restore the learning specialist teacher positions lost over the last decade.
- Ensure that every school has a minimum standard of learning specialist teacher service, including the service of teacher-librarians, ESL teachers, learning assistance teachers, counsellors, special education teachers, and other teachers providing specialized curriculum and instruction.



Respect for diversity and equal opportunities for all

Teachers work hard to provide real equity of opportunity for all, but historical factors and systemic barriers mean equity remains a distant goal.

- Ensure access to a broad variety of educational opportunities in all schools that make learning relevant and keep students in school.
- Support employment equity initiatives for Aboriginal teachers, including recruitment and retention strategies.
- Ensure that all school districts adopt and implement codes of conduct that address racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of harassment and discrimination in schools.
- Develop and provide learning resources and curriculum that reflect students' diverse identities and those of their families and communities.

Authentic student assessment

The most effective assessment of student progress is the assessment that teachers do every day in the classroom.

- Adopt a scientific, structured sample approach to the administration of the FSAs.
- Support teachers' authentic assessment practices.
- Work with the BCTF to address ministry, teacher, and parent concerns related to both student and system-wide assessment.

