

BCTF Research Report

Part of the BCTF Information Handbook

Section III
2004-WLC-03

Student/Teacher and Student/Administrator ratios, 2001–02 and 2003–04

www.bctf.ca/ResearchReports/2004wlc03

By Colleen Hawkey
Research Analyst, BCTF Research

The effects of changes in non-enrolling staffing formulas and class size provisions in the teachers' collective agreement are evident in increasing student/teacher ratios. In 2001 the B.C. liberal government introduced legislation that resulted in the loss of over 2,500 full-time-equivalent teaching positions. Although there has been a decline in student enrolments over the same period of time, the ratios in this report clearly show that teachers are disappearing faster than students.

For comparison purposes, the table below shows three ratios: Student/Teacher, Student/Administrator, and Student/Educator. Each ratio is calculated using the full-time equivalent (FTE) data from Ministry of Education standard reports¹. The teacher category includes teachers, department heads, instructional support services, and testing and assessment staff. The administrator category includes principals, vice principals, and directors of instruction. The term "educators" refers to the combination of teachers and administrators.

The first three vertical data sections of the table show the September 30th FTE counts of students, teachers, and administrators for the 2001–02 and 2003–04 school years. The next two columns provide the ratios by each category for the same two years. The final section shows the percentage change from 2001 to 2003 for each of the three ratios.

The provincial totals at the bottom of the table show that while the student/teacher ratio has increased by almost 6% since 2001, the student/administrator ratio has increased by 2.6%.

From 2001 to 2003, the total number of FTE administrators decreased by 121.79, or 4.4%. This compares to a decline of 2,462.84 or 7.4% FTE teachers. For the same time period, student enrolments decreased by a total of 11,555.20 FTEs (2.0%).

RT04-0037
August 2004

¹ Data are from the Ministry of Education Standard Reports #2077 and #2063, as at September 30th:
http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/k12datareports/course_reports.htm
http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/k12datareports/fte_reports.htm

**FTE Student/Teacher, Student/Administrator, and Student/Educator Ratios
By School District, 2001-02 and 2003-04**

SD	SD Name	FTE Student Enrolment 2001	FTE Student Enrolment 2003	FTE Teachers 2001	FTE Teachers 2003	FTE Admin 2001	FTE Admin 2003	Student/ Teacher Ratio 2001	Student/ Admin. Ratio 2001	Student/ Educator Ratio 2001	Student/ Teacher Ratio 2003	Student/ Admin Ratio 2003	Student/ Educator Ratio 2003	Student/ Teacher % Chg 2001 to 2003	Student/ Admin % Chg 2001 to 2003	Student/ Educator % Chg 2001 to 2003
5	S.E. Kootenay	6,511.75	6,013.06	367.869	311.611	37	31	17.7013	175.9932	16.0836	19.2967	193.9698	17.5507	9.0%	10.2%	9.1%
6	Rocky Mountain	4,022.56	3,690.44	240.3572	201.0068	32	26.4	16.7358	125.7051	14.7694	18.3598	139.7893	16.2284	9.7%	11.2%	9.9%
8	Kootenay Lake	6,148.75	5,870.19	349.1211	330.64	38.81	35.8	17.6121	158.4321	15.8501	17.754	163.9718	16.0195	0.8%	3.5%	1.1%
10	Arrow Lakes	764.75	670.25	50.6696	41.13	5	5	15.0929	152.95	13.7373	16.2959	134.05	14.5296	8.0%	-12.4%	5.8%
19	Revelstoke	1,430.06	1,361.63	83.672	78.887	6	6	17.0913	238.3438	15.9477	17.2604	226.9375	16.0404	1.0%	-4.8%	0.6%
20	Kootenay-Col.	5,284.5	4,778.94	290.9414	256.063	30	22	18.1635	176.15	16.4656	18.6631	217.2244	17.1865	2.8%	23.3%	4.4%
22	Vernon	9,341.75	9,188.88	492.6186	477.4514	42.6	43.6	18.9635	219.2899	17.4541	19.2457	210.754	17.6353	1.5%	-3.9%	1.0%
23	Central Okanagan	22,029.63	21,523.25	1148.36	1105.41	78.6	69	19.1836	280.2751	17.9546	19.4708	311.9312	18.3269	1.5%	11.3%	2.1%
27	Cariboo-Chilcotin	7,566.38	6,863.88	390.514	370.346	53	48	19.3754	142.7618	17.0601	18.5337	142.9974	16.4072	-4.3%	0.2%	-3.8%
28	Quesnel	4,515.13	4,232.06	254.2494	228.9211	26	25	17.7586	173.6587	16.1111	18.487	169.2825	16.6668	4.1%	-2.5%	3.4%
33	Chilliwack	11,808.12	12,251.19	639.5565	617.1475	52.7	54.59	18.463	224.0629	17.0574	19.8513	224.4214	18.2381	7.5%	0.2%	6.9%
34	Abbotsford	18,851.25	19,273.19	1041.461	982.273	85.4	80	18.1008	220.7406	16.729	19.621	240.9148	18.1433	8.4%	9.1%	8.5%
35	Langley	19,912.79	19,465.25	1120.471	998.531	94	93	17.7718	211.8382	16.3963	19.4939	209.3038	17.833	9.7%	-1.2%	8.8%
36	Surrey	59,135.63	60,979.75	3378.3791	3324.734	210.05	210.3	17.5041	281.5312	16.4795	18.3412	289.9655	17.2501	4.8%	3.0%	4.7%
37	Delta	17,160.56	16,975.38	916.6	900.66	67	63.6	18.722	256.1278	17.4467	18.8477	266.9084	17.6046	0.7%	4.2%	0.9%
38	Richmond	23,148.88	22,635.13	1339.333	1200.2418	112.2	111.6	17.2839	206.318	15.9479	18.8588	202.8237	17.2545	9.1%	-1.7%	8.2%
39	Vancouver	55,766.75	55,522.25	3427.2911	3188.8559	192	188	16.2714	290.4518	15.4082	17.4113	295.3311	16.442	7.0%	1.7%	6.7%
40	New Westminster	5,825.81	5,986.19	326.4045	338.7884	23	24	17.8484	253.2962	16.6735	17.6694	249.4245	16.5005	-1.0%	-1.5%	-1.0%
41	Burnaby	23,909.38	23,823.5	1432.52	1333.58	81.6	78	16.6904	293.007	15.7909	17.8643	305.4295	16.8772	7.0%	4.2%	6.9%
42	Maple Ridge-P.M.	14,907.63	15,083.75	851.465	825.482	64.4	66.44	17.5082	231.4849	16.2771	18.2727	227.0281	16.9115	4.4%	-1.9%	3.9%
43	Coquitlam	32,495.5	31,866	1816.975	1753.805	115.5	107	17.8844	281.3463	16.8155	18.1696	297.8131	17.1248	1.6%	5.9%	1.8%
44	North Vancouver	17,882.5	17,601.13	997.0605	893.7889	96	93	17.9352	186.276	16.36	19.6927	189.2594	17.8368	9.8%	1.6%	9.0%
45	West Vancouver	6,476.06	6,545.25	355.44	344.418	35	37.4	18.2198	185.0304	16.5866	19.0038	175.0067	17.1423	4.3%	-5.4%	3.4%
46	Sunshine Coast	4,228.88	4,093.19	232.525	215.088	16	18	18.1868	264.3047	17.0159	19.0303	227.3993	17.5607	4.6%	-14.0%	3.2%
47	Powell River	2,988.75	2,738.56	160.505	141.05	16	14	18.6209	186.7969	16.9329	19.4155	195.6116	17.6624	4.3%	4.7%	4.3%
48	Howe Sound	4,510.25	4,385.63	252.2896	220.1573	23	22	17.8773	196.0978	16.3837	19.9204	199.3466	18.1106	11.4%	1.7%	10.5%
49	Central Coast	367	321.125	30.5	27	3	2	12.0328	122.3333	10.9552	11.8935	160.5625	11.0733	-1.2%	31.3%	1.1%
50	Haida Gwaii/Q C	947.7499	882.125	61.4684	54.999	9	10	15.4185	105.3055	13.4493	16.0389	88.2125	13.5714	4.0%	-16.2%	0.9%
51	Boundary	2,039.81	1,845.63	111.175	98.9341	10	11	18.3478	203.9813	16.8336	18.6551	167.7841	16.7885	1.7%	-17.7%	-0.3%
52	Prince Rupert	3,221	2,823.56	210.349	184.684	17.9	16	15.3126	179.9441	14.1118	15.2886	176.4727	14.0697	-0.2%	-1.9%	-0.3%
53	Okanagan Simil.	2,944.75	2,835.25	172.426	157.271	19	19	17.0783	154.9868	15.3832	18.0278	149.2237	16.0846	5.6%	-3.7%	4.6%
54	Bulkley Valley	2,859.19	2,699.19	162.915	150.214	17	16	17.5502	168.1875	15.8919	17.9689	168.6992	16.2392	2.4%	0.3%	2.2%
57	Prince George	17,320.25	15,853.06	1001.31	850.9828	95	81	17.2976	182.3184	15.7987	18.6291	195.7168	17.01	7.7%	7.3%	7.7%
58	Nicola-Simil.	2,969.98	2,904.58	183.53	172.08	19	17.05	16.1825	156.3145	14.6644	16.8792	170.3563	15.3576	4.3%	9.0%	4.7%
59	Peace River S.	4,892.44	4,727.88	242.852	222.501	33	33	20.1458	148.2557	17.7357	21.2488	143.2689	18.5043	5.5%	-3.4%	4.3%
60	Peace River N.	5,782.71	5,632.69	308.737	300.2511	31	32	18.7302	186.5391	17.0211	18.7599	176.0215	16.9531	0.2%	-5.6%	-0.4%
61	Greater Victoria	21,295.44	20,283.56	1158.849	1012.996	117	114	18.3764	182.0123	16.6912	20.0233	177.926	17.9979	9.0%	-2.2%	7.8%
62	Sooke	8,816.44	8,786.25	465.871	437.413	49	47	18.9246	179.9273	17.1236	20.0869	186.9415	18.1379	6.1%	3.9%	5.9%
63	Saanich	8,742.69	8,774	471.5778	448.592	40.6	37	18.5392	215.3371	17.0696	19.559	237.1351	18.0687	5.5%	10.1%	5.9%
64	Gulf Islands	1,754.81	1,719.5	99.6749	87.0466	14.6	14.8	17.6054	120.1926	15.3561	19.7538	116.1824	16.8832	12.2%	-3.3%	9.9%

**FTE Student/Teacher, Student/Administrator, and Student/Educator Ratios
By School District, 2001-02 and 2003-04**

SD	SD Name	FTE Student Enrolment 2001	FTE Student Enrolment 2003	FTE Teachers 2001	FTE Teachers 2003	FTE Admin 2001	FTE Admin 2003	Student/ Teacher Ratio 2001	Student/ Admin. Ratio 2001	Student/ Educator Ratio 2001	Student/ Teacher Ratio 2003	Student/ Admin Ratio 2003	Student/ Educator Ratio 2003	Student/ Teacher % Chg 2001 to 2003	Student/ Admin % Chg 2001 to 2003	Student/ Educator % Chg 2001 to 2003
67	Okanagan Skaha	7,496.25	7,157.19	398.798	364.941	38.5	35.8	18.7971	194.7078	17.1422	19.6119	199.9214	17.8599	4.3%	2.7%	4.2%
68	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	16,231.63	15,746.56	903.528	770.108	69	68.675	17.9647	235.2409	16.6901	20.4472	229.291	18.7731	13.8%	-2.5%	12.5%
69	Qualicum	5,273.88	5,182.75	277.169	262.11	25.6	24	19.0277	206.0107	17.4188	19.7732	215.9479	18.1145	3.9%	4.8%	4.0%
70	Alberni	5,048.38	4,772.38	272.1418	246.164	39	27.9	18.5505	129.4455	16.2253	19.387	171.0529	17.4134	4.5%	32.1%	7.3%
71	Comox Valley	9,459.28	9,358.06	522.7386	479.7236	54.6	51	18.0956	173.2469	16.3843	19.5072	183.4914	17.6326	7.8%	5.9%	7.6%
72	Campbell River	6,791.06	6,264.38	389.971	337.923	38	37	17.4143	178.7122	15.868	18.5379	169.3074	16.7084	6.5%	-5.3%	5.3%
73	Kamloops/Thomp.	16,447.78	15,440.5	905.0381	792.4656	75	68.6	18.1736	219.3037	16.7828	19.4841	225.0802	17.9319	7.2%	2.6%	6.8%
74	Gold Trail	2,628.69	1,958.88	146.349	118.45	18	12	17.9618	146.0382	15.9945	16.5376	163.2396	15.0163	-7.9%	11.8%	-6.1%
75	Mission	7,060.78	7,339.63	389.063	357.7548	34.2	40.5	18.1482	206.4554	16.6818	20.5158	181.2253	18.4295	13.0%	-12.2%	10.5%
78	Fraser-Cascade	2,316.88	2,254.88	139.8865	129.0708	17	14	16.5625	136.2868	14.7678	17.4701	161.0625	15.7606	5.5%	18.2%	6.7%
79	Cowichan Valley	9,824.84	9,522.13	553.9104	487.6759	51	46.6	17.7372	192.6438	16.2418	19.5255	204.3374	17.8225	10.1%	6.1%	9.7%
81	Fort Nelson	1,204.5	1,170.99	73.6355	69.712	7	7	16.3576	172.0714	14.9376	16.7975	167.2839	15.2647	2.7%	-2.8%	2.2%
82	Coast Mountains	6,911.88	6,241.75	407.5545	343.8923	42	35.714	16.9594	164.5685	15.3749	18.1503	174.7689	16.4427	7.0%	6.2%	6.9%
83	N. Ok.-Shuswap	8,215.2	7,796.75	437.934	400.384	45	41	18.759	182.5599	17.011	19.4732	190.1646	17.6643	3.8%	4.2%	3.8%
84	Vancouver Isl. W.	557.625	509.125	48.7	38.8	5	5	11.4502	111.525	10.3841	13.1218	101.825	11.6239	14.6%	-8.7%	11.9%
85	Vancouver Isl. N.	2,292.5	1,916.5	143.91	107.0452	21	15	15.9301	109.1667	13.9015	17.9037	127.7667	15.7032	12.4%	17.0%	13.0%
87	Stikine	345.937	299.6901	25	23	5	6	13.8375	69.1874	11.5312	13.03	49.9484	10.3341	-5.8%	-27.8%	-10.4%
91	Nechako Lakes	5,330.06	5,667.25	279.7505	267.067	28.2	32.6	19.0529	189.0093	17.3082	21.2203	173.842	18.9118	11.4%	-8.0%	9.3%
92	Nisga'a	500.5	573	42	39	6	7	11.9167	83.4167	10.4271	14.6923	81.8571	12.4565	23.3%	-1.9%	19.5%
93	CSF	2,682	2,964	187.857	199.659	19.7	27	14.2768	136.1421	12.9218	14.8453	109.7778	13.0769	4.0%	-19.4%	1.2%
(All)		587,197.83	575,642.63	33182.819	30719.978	2746.8	2625	17.6958	213.7784	16.343	18.7384	219.295	17.2633	5.89%	2.58%	5.63%

Sources: Ministry of Education Standard Reports # 2063 and #2077

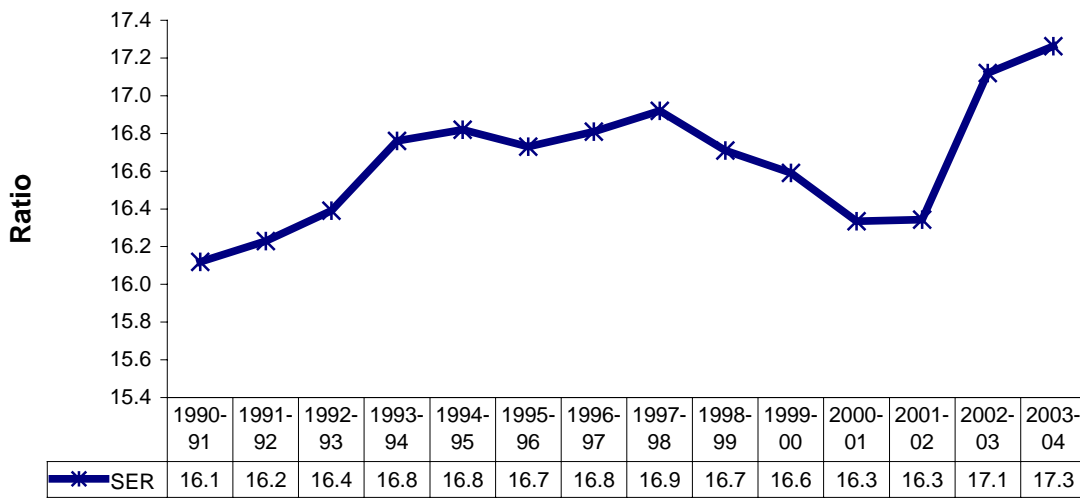
Teacher includes Teachers, Department Heads, Instructional Support Services and Testing & Assessment

Admin includes Principals, Vice Principals, and Directors of Instruction

Educator includes all teachers and administrators

At the provincial level, the student/educator ratio has increased by 5.6% since 2001. As shown in the graph below, the student/educator ratio has been steadily increasing, from 16.3 in 2000–01 to a high of 17.3 in 2003–04, its highest point since teachers unionized in 1987. The period of decline beginning in 1997–98 corresponds with the inclusion in the provincial collective agreement of class-size limits and ratios for non-enrolling and English as a Second Language teachers. The subsequent increase corresponds with the removal of these staffing and class-size provisions from the collective agreement after the 2001 provincial election.

**Provincial student/educator ratio,
1990-91 to 2003-04**



Teacher and administrator FTE data are available by district electronically from 2000–01 and in paper format from 1986–87. Contact BCTF Research if you would like more information.

© B.C. Teachers' Federation, 2004. All rights reserved.

CH/af:tfu

RT04-0037
August 2004