

## Teachers gained and lost—Will the Teacher Education Fund make a difference?

### How much of the Learning Improvement Fund was allocated to hiring teachers in 2013–14?

Based on data provided in the Audited Financial Statements (as of June 30, 2014), districts spent about \$40 million of the Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) on teachers, including \$31.7 million on salaries, \$7.8<sup>1</sup> million (estimate) on benefits and \$0.68<sup>2</sup> million (estimate) on “substitutes”.

### How much new money is there to hire teachers in the Teacher Education Fund?

In *Budget 2012*, the Ministry of Education announced the Learning Improvement Fund would increase from \$60 million to \$75 million in 2014–15<sup>3</sup>. The new collective agreement stipulates all \$75 million will be allocated to teachers in a new fund called the Teacher Education Fund.

About \$40 million of the Teacher Education Fund will fund teaching positions already funded by the LIF in 2013–14. This leaves \$35 million to hire more FTE teachers in 2014–15.

### How many more FTE teachers could be hired in 2014–15 from the available funds in the Teacher Education Fund?

Of the \$35 million funds available to hire new teachers in 2014–15, about \$27.6 million would be spent on teacher salaries and \$7.4 million on teacher benefits<sup>4</sup>. Based on an average teacher salary of \$73,163<sup>5</sup>, \$27.6 million would fund an extra 377 FTE teachers (estimate) in 2014–15.

### Are school districts cutting back on teachers who are funded by district operating grants?

Yes, the Ministry of Education Revenue and Expenditure data show districts plan to spend \$28.3 million less on teachers’ salaries in 2014–15, compared to 2013–14<sup>6</sup>. Based on an average teacher salary of \$73,163, this would result in a loss of 386 FTE teachers (estimate). The net impact after taking both sources of funding into account is 9 fewer FTE teachers in 2014–15<sup>7</sup>.

### Will the Teacher Education Fund make a difference?

The 2014–15 data shows that extra teaching positions funded by the Teacher Education Fund are being offset by a loss of teachers funded by operating grants. Until the provinces provides adequate funding to cover district operating expenses, the Teacher Education Fund will do little to improve the overall number of teachers available to support students in BC public schools.

Source of funding (2014–15)	Expenditures on teacher salaries	Average teacher salary	Estimated FTE teachers
Change in operating grant expenditures on teacher salaries (2013–14 Final to 2014–15 Annual)	-\$28,271,287	\$ 73,163	-386 FTE
Teacher Education Fund: Amount of new funding available for teacher salaries	\$27,615,000	\$ 73,163	+377 FTE
<b>Net increase/decrease in FTE teachers</b>			<b>-9 FTE</b>

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<sup>1</sup> BCTF calculations with 2013–14 data, *Public Sector Compensation Database*. Estimate based on teacher share of the total benefit cost for Teachers and EAs combined = 74%.

<sup>2</sup> BCTF calculations with 2013–14 data from district Audited Financial Statements, Schedule 3A, Learning Improvement Fund, based on the assumption that 76% of the “substitutes” salaries were spent on teachers.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Education. (February 2012). *Budget 2012: 2012/13 to 2014/15 Service Plan*, p. 27.

<sup>4</sup> BCTF calculations with 2013–14 data, *Public Sector Compensation Database*: Benefits are 21% of total teacher compensation.

<sup>5</sup> Average teacher salary is \$71,194 for 2013–14; BCTF adjusted figure, to reflect the 2% and 1.25% salary increases in 2014–15.

<sup>6</sup> BCTF Research Report RR2014-06 , p.2 at [http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Publications/Research\\_reports/RR2014-06.pdf](http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Publications/Research_reports/RR2014-06.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> These estimates are based on average teacher salary. The actual change in FTE teachers will depend on where the new teachers who are hired, or those whose FTE is reduced, place on the salary grid.