

# Weighted Moving Average Funding Model

January 2025

# Weighted Moving Average (WMA)



Alberta Education's new funding model introduced in 2020

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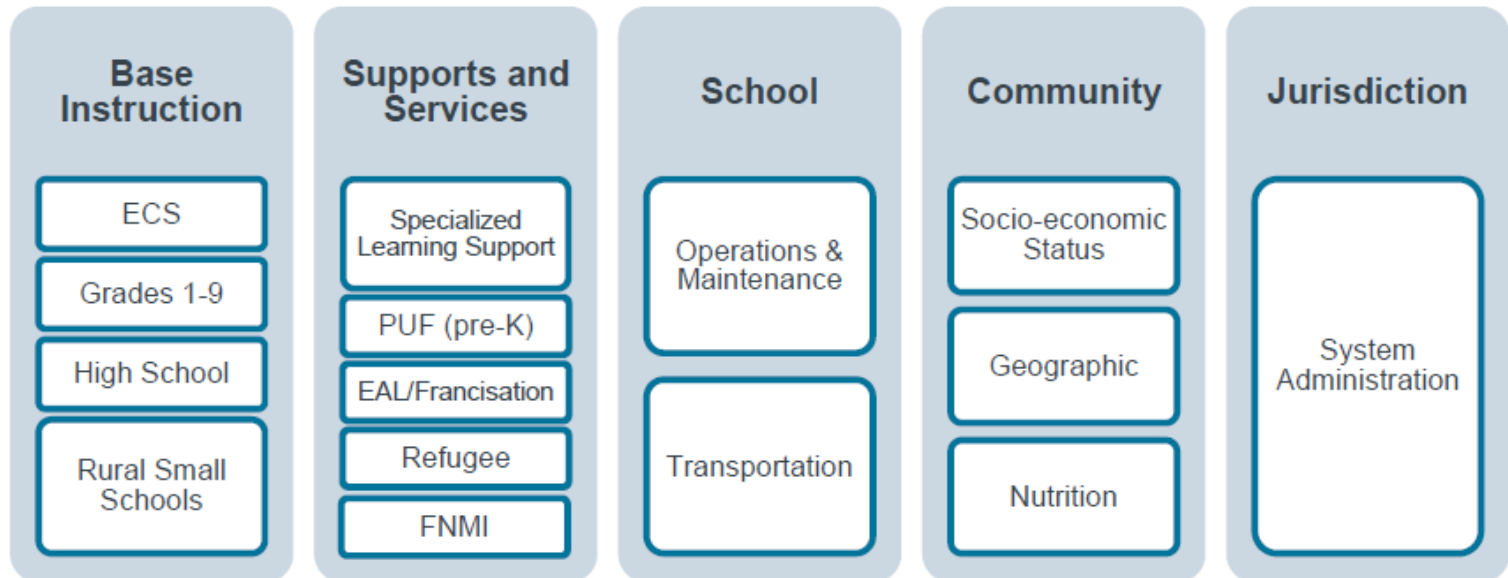


Methodology to provide predictable funding to school divisions

## Section A – Executive Summary

Alberta's funding model consists of 15 major grant allocations as outlined in the following diagram. In some instances, sub-grants are contained within the allocations.

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## ALBERTA EDUCATION REVENUE

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Fall Budget	Note	Change	% Change
<b>Base Instruction</b>					
Early Childhood Services (ECS)	\$ 4,250,391	\$ 4,288,945		\$ 38,554	1%
Grades 1-9	76,416,797	77,263,906		847,109	1%
High Schools	31,569,047	32,514,749		945,702	3%
Distance Education	13,500	4,593		(8,907)	(66%)
Hutterite Colony Funding	53,000	53,583		583	1%
Outreach Programs	350,000	350,000		-	0%
Rural Small Schools	1,841,432	1,861,688		20,256	1%
	<u>114,494,167</u>	<u>116,337,464</u>	<b>A</b>	<u>1,843,297</u>	<u>2%</u>
<b>Services &amp; Supports</b>					
Specialized Learning Support	12,605,832	12,930,157		324,325	3%
Specialized Learning Support Kindergarten	1,311,915	1,394,534	<b>B</b>	82,619	6%
Moderate Language Delay	189,640	166,505		(23,135)	(12%)
ECS Pre-K Program Unit Funding (PUF)	1,932,117	1,832,529	<b>C</b>	(99,588)	(5%)
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education	1,876,488	1,886,731		10,243	1%
Classroom Complexity	861,269	861,204		(65)	(0%)
English as an Additional Language	437,316	469,961		32,645	7%
Refugee Students	-	-		-	0%
Institutional Programs	432,986	432,986		-	0%
	<u>19,647,563</u>	<u>19,974,607</u>		<u>327,044</u>	<u>2%</u>
<b>School - System Needs</b>					
Operations & Maintenance	16,365,140	16,380,421		15,281	0%
SuperNet	374,400	374,400		-	0%
Transportation	15,595,238	15,595,238		-	0%
Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal	1,225,100	1,878,231	<b>D</b>	653,131	53%
	<u>33,559,878</u>	<u>34,228,290</u>		<u>668,412</u>	<u>2%</u>
<b>Community</b>					
Socio-Economic Status	1,089,484	1,093,797		4,313	0%
Geographic	1,484,120	1,488,480		4,360	0%
School Nutrition Program	199,500	199,500		-	0%
	<u>2,773,104</u>	<u>2,781,777</u>		<u>8,673</u>	<u>0%</u>
<b>Jurisdictions</b>					
System Administration	6,545,977	6,545,977		-	0%
Teacher Salary Settlement	3,456,020	3,456,020		-	0%
Supplemental Enrolment Growth	150,000	690,000	<b>E</b>	540,000	360%
	<u>10,151,997</u>	<u>10,691,997</u>		<u>540,000</u>	<u>5%</u>

Base instruction grants = three-year WMA enrolment



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Does not allocate funding for specific students or schools



WMA FTE enrolment is used to allocate funding for the Early Childhood Services (ECS) to Grade 12 instructional activities

# WMA Funding Model

The WMA funding model calculates per-student funding using the following formula:

## 2024-25 Year

School Year	Weighted Factor	Enrolment Count (FTE)
2022-23	20%	Actual – known
2023-24	30%	Estimate – Sept. 29, 2023
2024-25	50%	Projection – estimated in January 2024 for September 2024



7 Under the old model, funding was based on the number of students enrolled at the end of September = fully funding each student that is in the school at the end of Sept.



# Declining Enrolment

This new WMA funding model benefits school divisions with declining enrolments, often found in rural areas.

## 2024-25 Year:

School Year	Weighted Factor	Enrolment Count (FTE)
2022-23	20%	16,850
2023-24	30%	16,700
2024-25	50%	16,480

$$(16,850 \times 20\%) + (16,700 \times 30\%) + (16,480 \times 50\%) = \mathbf{16,620}$$

This school division will get funding for 16,620 students rather than 16,480 which is their actual enrolment.





# Increasing Enrolment

For school divisions with increasing enrolment, the WMA model creates a funding shortfall.

## 2024-25 Year:

School Year	Weighted Factor	Enrolment Count (FTE)
2022-23	20%	16,480
2023-24	30%	16,700
2024-25	50%	16,850

$$(16,480 \times 20\%) + (16,700 \times 30\%) + (16,850 \times 50\%) = \mathbf{16,731}$$

This school division will receive funding for 16,731 students when the division actually has 16,850 students, leaving 119 students with no funding.



# Enrolment growth of 4% each year

## 2024-25 Year:

School Year	Weighted Factor	Enrolment Count (FTE)
2022-23	20%	80,000
2023-24	30%	83,200
2024-25	50%	86,528
WMA for 2024-25		84,224

Actual Students	86,528
Funded Students	<u>84,224</u>
Shortfall	2,304*

\*Supplemental Enrolment Growth Grant introduced to cover some of the shortfall

# Supplemental Enrolment Growth Grant

## Allocation Formula

### *Scenario 1: Incremental Growth*

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{FTE Enrolment Growth between 0 and 100}) \times \$1,500 \\ & + \\ & (\text{FTE Enrolment Growth above 100}) \times \$4,000 \end{aligned}$$

### *Scenario 2: Enrolment Thresholds*

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{FTE Enrolment Growth between 2\% and 5\%}) \times \$1,500 \\ & + \\ & (\text{FTE Enrolment Growth above 5\%}) \times \$4,000 \end{aligned}$$

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This is what the basic allocation is – which is significantly higher than the above and does not cover other essential grants that are also based on WMA. So the Supplemental Growth is not enough.

Grades 1-9 Base Instruction	\$6,563.53
Grades 10-12 Base Instruction	\$7,219.88

# WMA Effect on EIPS

## 2024-25 Year:

School Year	Enrolment Count (FTE)
2022-23	16,748.5
2023-24	17,064.5 1.9% increase
2024-25	17,299.5 1.4% increase

Overall, enrolment FTE has increased over time, but not significantly – to the extent of other boards.

- Alberta Education will be reviewing the funding formula for 2025-26.
- If Alberta Education does not increase funding overall for Education, then all school divisions with declining, static and slight increases will lose.
- The metros might gain, but again if the basic grant is reduced to balance, then they will not gain either
- **The total funding for Education needs to increase so that the basic grant rate does not decrease.**