

Advocacy Works! Parents and Teachers Together for Public Education

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# *Education underfunding: How does it add up?*

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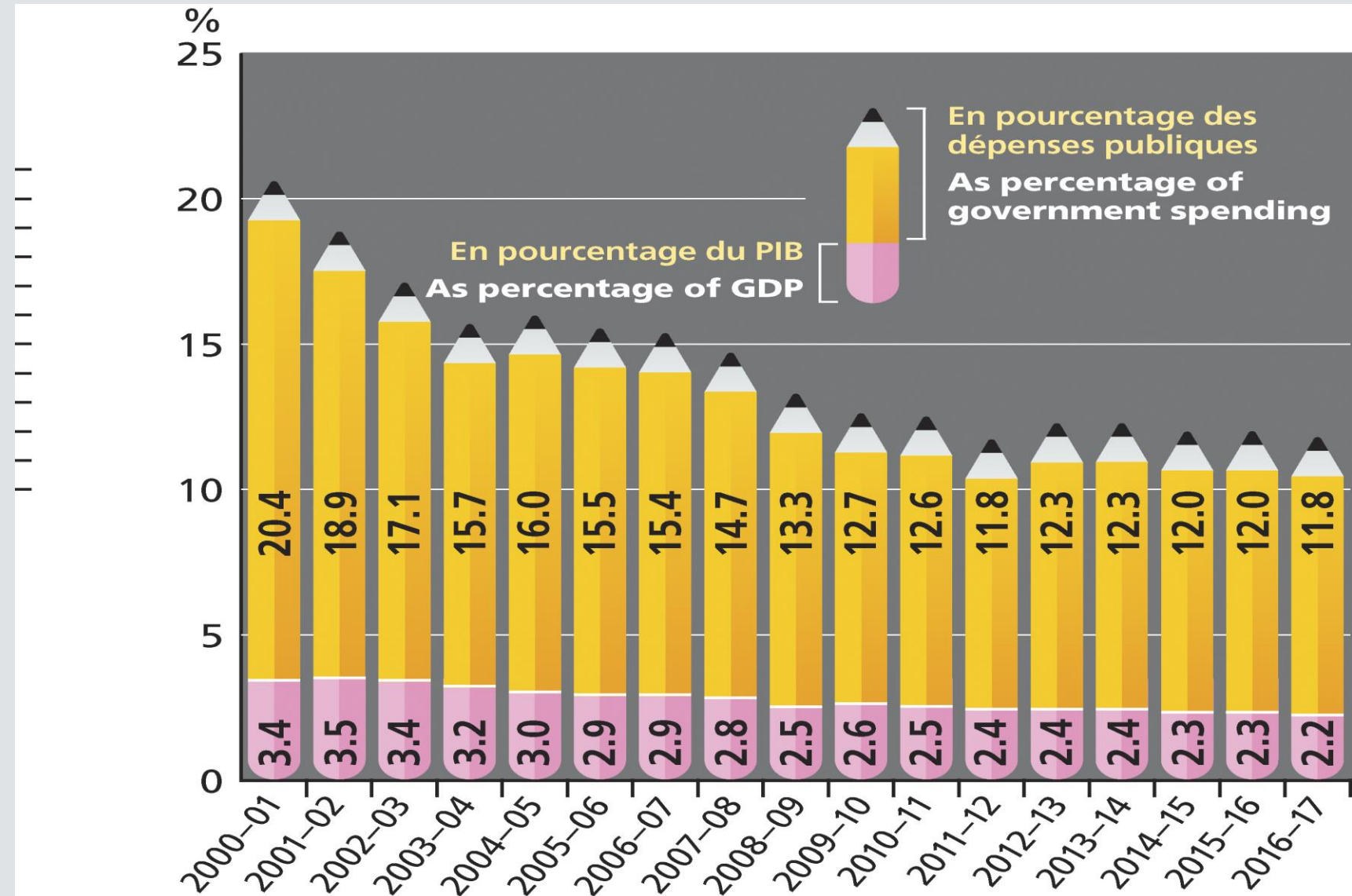
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# Myth: Education funding in BC is at record levels

Education spending has been declining as **both** a percentage of British Columbia's GDP **and** as a percentage of total government spending over the last 15 years.



Sources: Statistics Canada. (2015). *Table 384-0038 Gross domestic product, expenditure-based, provincial and territorial*. Ottawa: CANSIM. Retrieved from [www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=3840038](http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=3840038)

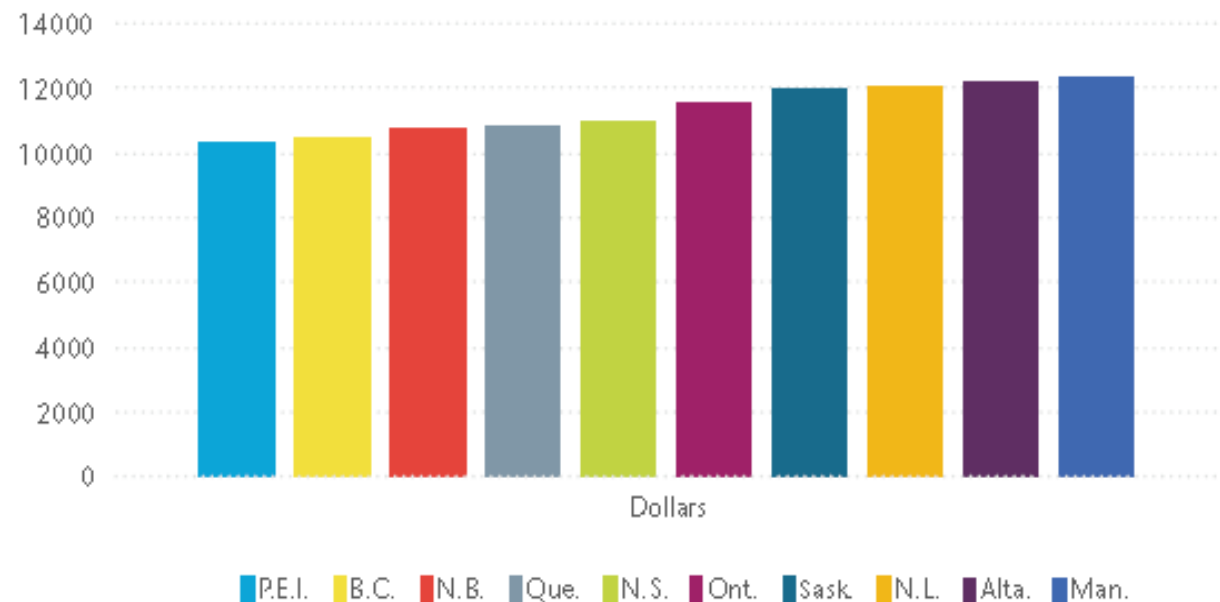
Ministry of Finance. (2016). *Budget and Fiscal Plan 2016/17 – 2018/19*. Victoria: Government of British Columbia. Retrieved from [bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2016/bfp/2016\\_budget\\_and\\_fiscal\\_plan.pdf](http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2016/bfp/2016_budget_and_fiscal_plan.pdf)

Ministry of Education. (Various Years). *Service Plan*. Victoria: Government of British Columbia. Ministry of Finance. (2001). *Budget Estimates Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2002*. Victoria: Government of British Columbia.

# Myth: British Columbia is keeping pace with education spending relative to the Rest of Canada

British Columbia has the second lowest level of public operational spending on K-12 education in Canada

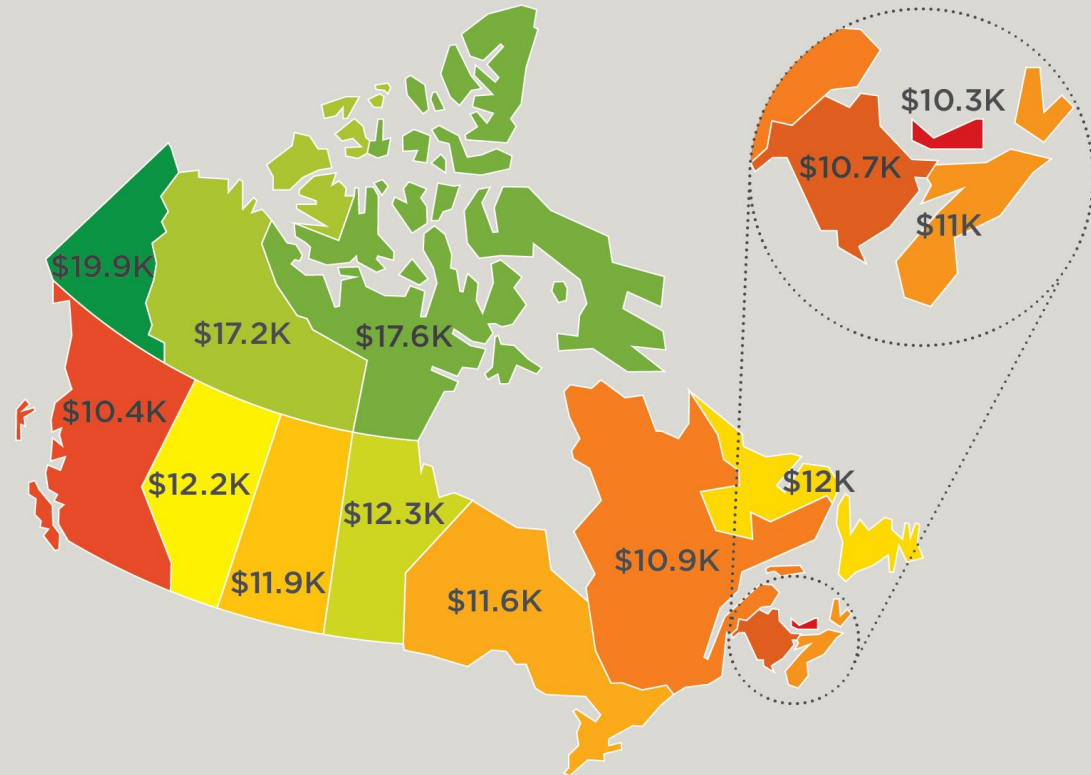
Figure 2: Per student spending in public elementary and secondary schools (2010/11)



Source: Table 21. Operating expenditures per student in public elementary and secondary schools, "Summary Elementary and Secondary School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2006/2007 to 2010/2011," Statistics Canada.

# British Columbia compared to the rest of Canada

British Columbia spends nearly \$1000 less per student on K-12 education funding than the national average.



**BC HAS THE SECOND LOWEST EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE COUNTRY NEARLY \$1,000 PER STUDENT LOWER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE**

Source: Table 21. Operating expenditures per student in public elementary and secondary schools, "Summary Elementary and Secondary School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2006/2007 to 2010/2011," Statistics Canada.

Source: "What's the real story behind BC's education funding crisis?" Alex Hemingway, CCPA, BC Office, Aug 24, 2016

# ***Myth: School districts just need to do a better job of managing finances. Public funding is adequate to meet costs of public education.***

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## **REALITY:**

Besides inflation, the provincial government has downloaded an array of additional costs to local school districts

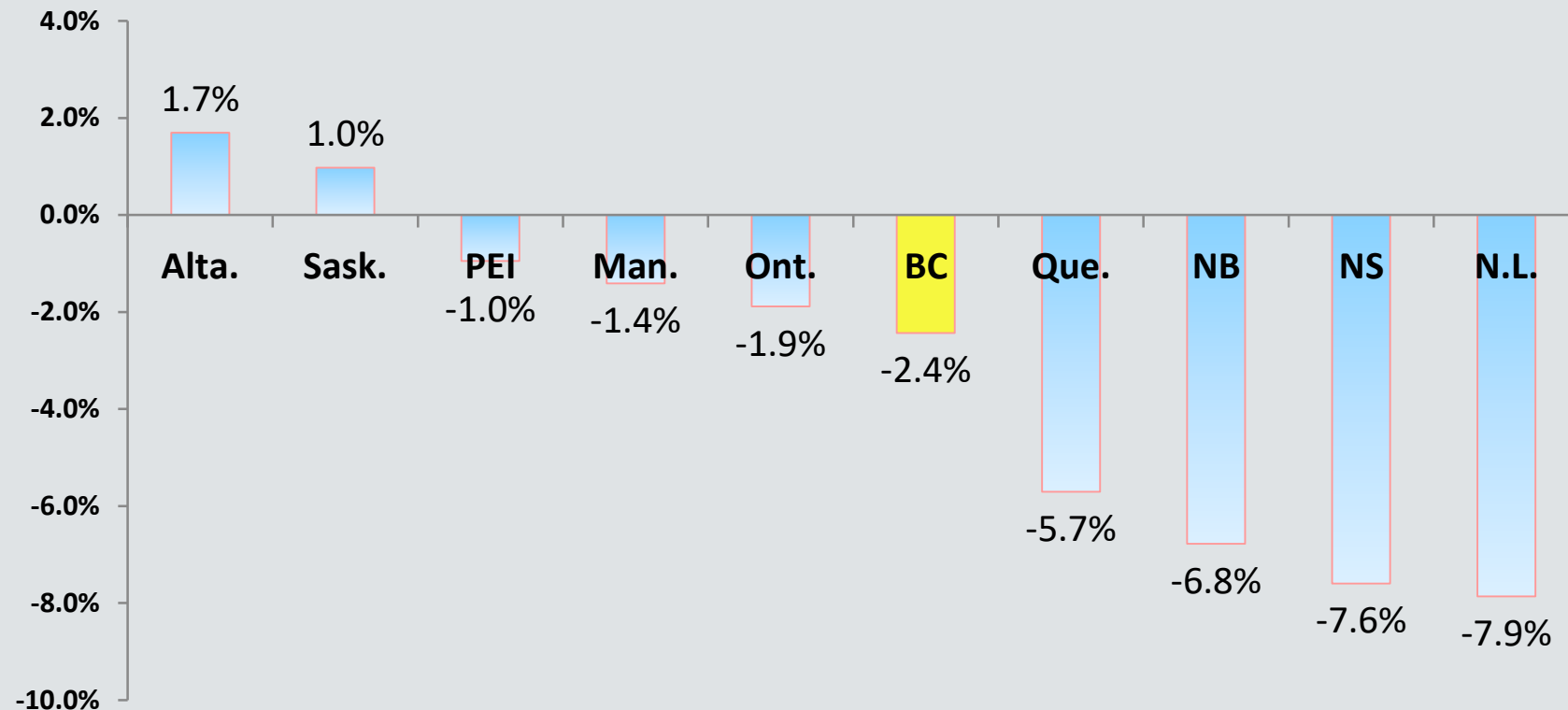
- BC Hydro rates
- Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums
- WorkSafe BC rates
- Carbon tax
- Next Generation Network
- And more...

**BC Association of School Business Officials estimated cost pressures at \$192 million for the 2014/15 school year. Provincial government directly controls many of these costs**

# MYTH: “Yes, funding has declined, but this is mostly been driven by enrolment declines..”

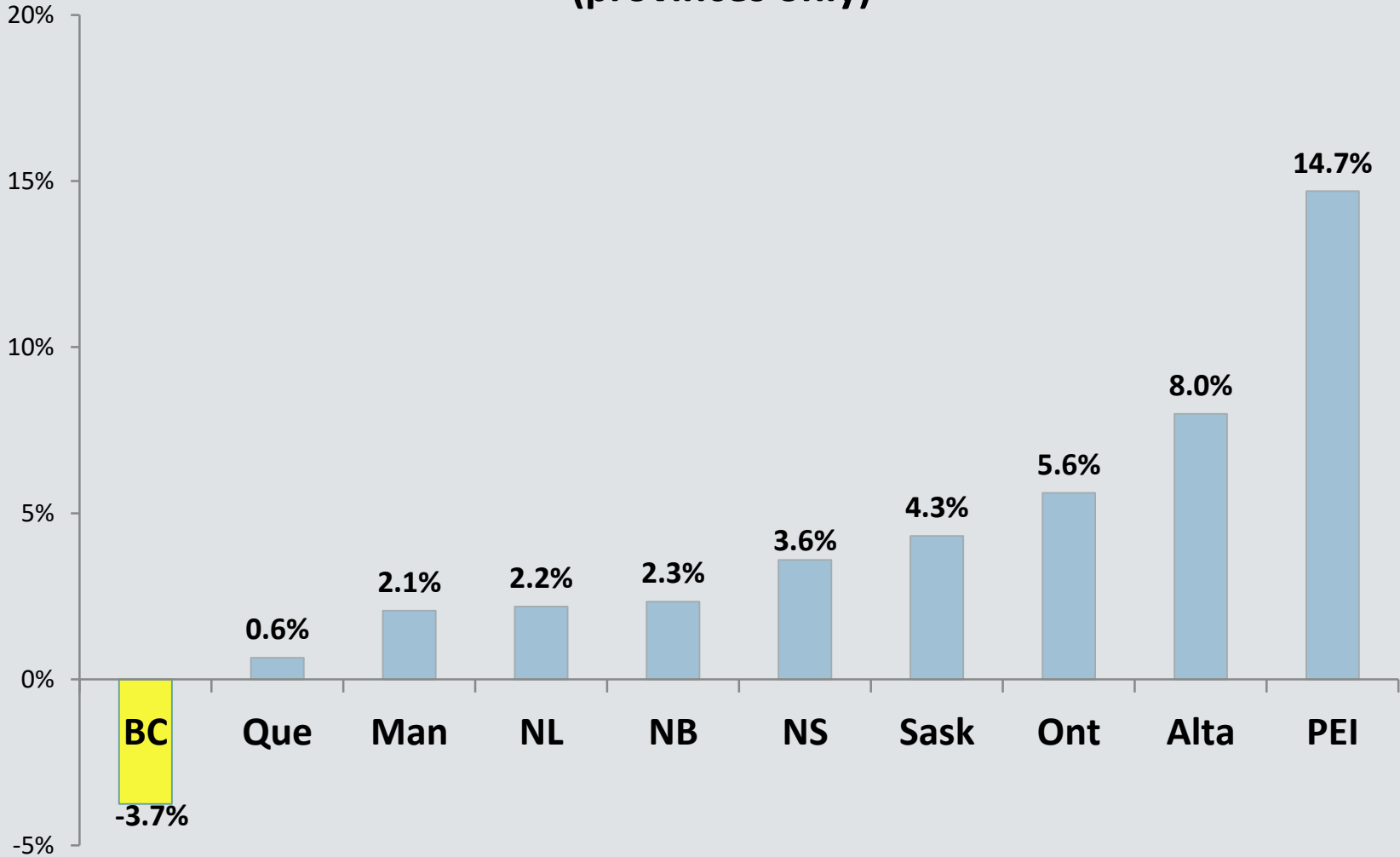
Percentage change in FTE enrolments in public schools:  
2006-07 to 2010-11

All provinces, except Alberta and Saskatchewan have been experiencing enrolment declines.



### Percentage change in FTE educators, 2006-07 to 2010-11 (provinces only)

Despite enrolment declines, all provinces, except British Columbia, hired more educators.



# What are the impacts of underfunding public education for students and teachers?

- Declining numbers of classroom teachers
- Declining specialist teachers and specialist services
- Increased class sizes and complexities
- Inadequate supports and services for children with special needs and children who are English Language Learners
- Capital infrastructure issues, including lead, asbestos, radon, and seismic concerns
- Pressures of privatization of education



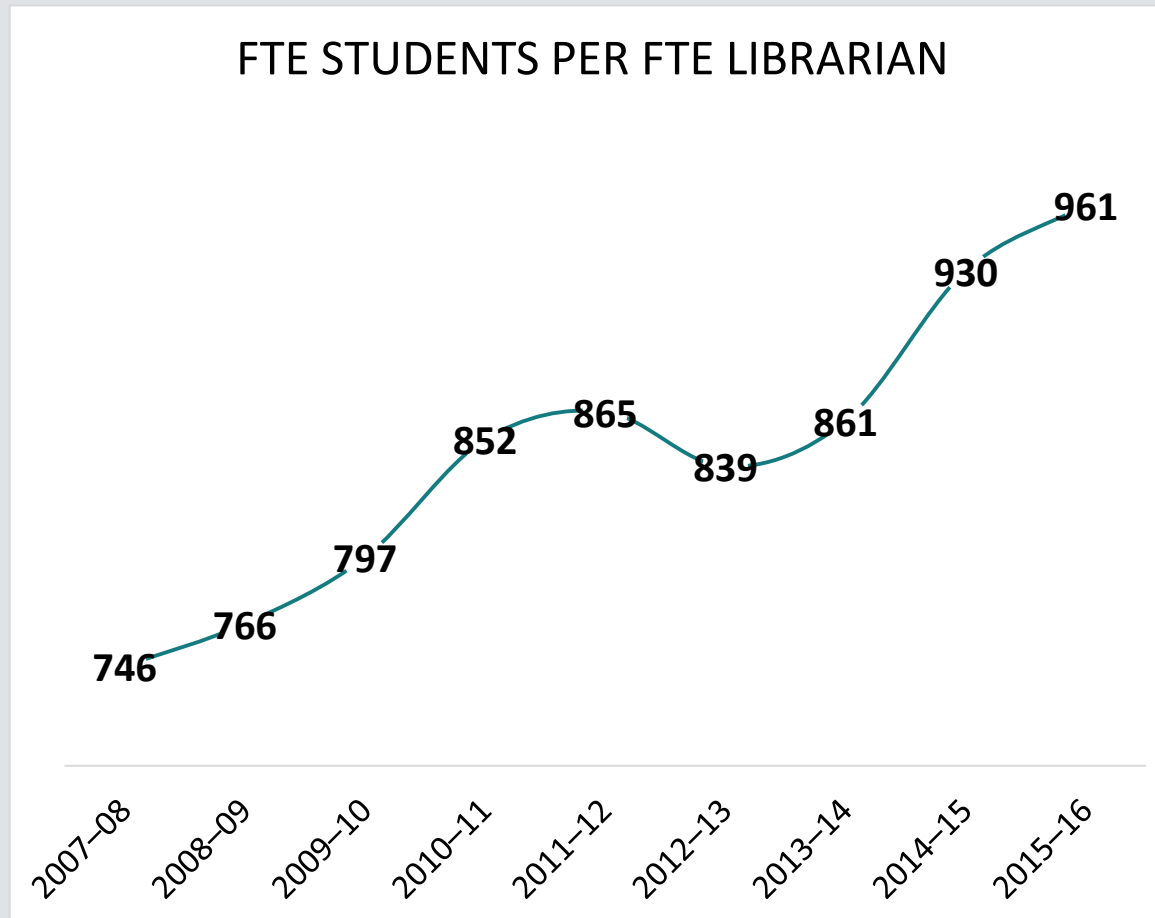
# Reality: BC has lost over 3500 teaching positions, including 1600 specialist teachers.

While numbers of specialist teachers have been declining, student enrolment is increasing in specialist teaching areas.

Program	FTE Teachers (Specialists)	Student enrolment (Headcount)	
English Language Learners (formerly ESL)	-33.7%	ESL students	+4.6%
Aboriginal education	-1.0%	Self-identified as Aboriginal	+25.5%
Special Education	-24.6%	Funded special needs students	+50%
Teacher-Librarians	-29.7%	All students	-9.6%

# The loss of specialist teachers has meant reductions or eliminations of important public education services

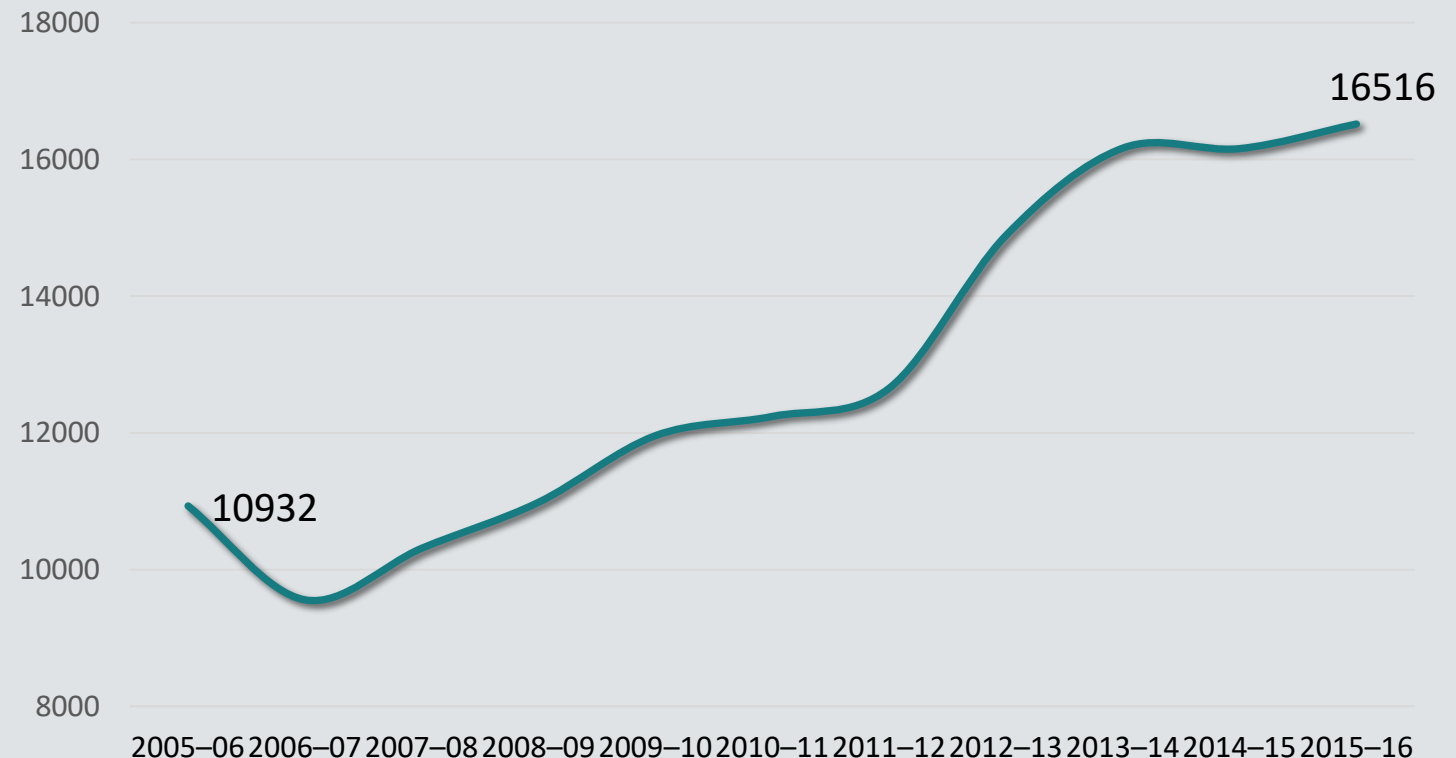
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# Reality: Classes in BC schools are increasing in size and complexity

Meaningful inclusion in British Columbia requires that students with special needs are provided with proper supports and services.

Classes that have four (4) or more students with IEPs



# Capital Issues in BC Public Schools

Lead found in drinking water at 5 B.C. Interior schools

SURREY SCHOOLS

August 23, 2016 9:04 pm

Updated: August 24, 2016 12:40 pm

School district testing is ongoing  
By Courtney Dickson  
Feb 03, 2017 5:51 PM PT | Last Updated: Feb 03, 2017 6:17 PM PT

## Surrey's student boom leads to more portables

## Incidents this year of asbestos exposure in schools

TIFFANY O...

Crowded Surrey schools expect 1,000 new students

Michael Smyth: Schools still upgrading as earth-shaking election nears



### B.C. Liberals dragging feet on schools' seismic upgrades, NDP says

WENDY STUECK

VANCOUVER — The Globe and Mail

Published Wednesday, Nov. 02, 2016 9:31PM EDT

Last updated Wednesday, Nov. 02, 2016 9:32PM EDT

# Underfunding Public Education while subsidizing private education:

Growth in Public and Independent Schools Funding  
2005–06 to 2016–17

In a recent (2016) poll, 77 per cent of British Columbians say they oppose the government subsidy to private schools.

