

## SSBA Reacts to 2026-27 Budget Announcement

The 2026-27 provincial budget is in line with what school boards have seen previously and maintains commitments to increasing specialized supports but falls short of significant new investment in other areas, according to the SSBA.

“The circumstances will vary among school divisions in the province, but overall, this budget is consistent with what we’ve seen for funding in recent years,” said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA. “However, it doesn’t represent additional investment in the sector outside of specialized support programming.”

The specialized support programming has been well-received in divisions, said Davidson, noting the budget commitment to expand that funding is consistent with the government’s promises to continue to increase the reach to more schools across a period of multiple years.

However, the budget is not keeping up with all inflationary pressures faced by school divisions, including transportation, local contracts, and funds needed to maintain infrastructure.

While some planned capital expenditures are always welcome, more dollars for preventative maintenance and renewal are missing from the budget, Davidson said. Many school divisions are facing pressures around facilities.

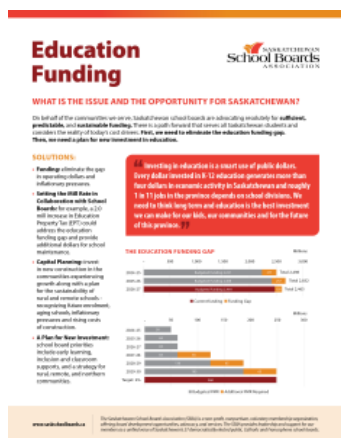


SSBA President Dr. Shawn Davidson and Vice-President Lori Kidney attended Budget Day at the Legislative Building in March, where President Davidson addressed media. The SSBA will be working with boards over the coming months to unpack the budget.

“What is included for capital is appreciated but will not fully address the urgent needs out there,” said Davidson. Divisions have identified a need for preventative maintenance and renewal funding that equates to about two per cent of school value allocated annually.

The current funding level is remaining stagnant at about one-half of one per cent based on the budget announcement.

“Although the industry standard is two per cent, we would be happy to see the level reach at least one per cent as a first step,” he said.



**Education Funding**

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SASKATCHEWAN?**

On behalf of the communities we serve, Saskatchewan school boards are advocating for sufficient, predictable, and sustainable funding. There is a clear focus that every child deserves quality and equitable education. We need to address the education funding gap.

**SOLUTIONS:**

- Funding:** Increase the per-student provincial and federal funding levels.
- Working with School Boards:** Collaborate with School Boards to ensure that every child has access to quality education. Properly fund the education funding gap and ensure additional funding is used for school maintenance.
- Capital Funding:** Invest in preventative maintenance and renewal funding that equates to about two per cent of school value annually.
- Other Key Investments:** Invest in other key areas such as transportation, local contracts, and infrastructure.

**THE EDUCATION FUNDING GAP**

Year	Provincial Funding	Federal Funding	Total Funding	Required Funding
2019-20	100	100	200	200
2020-21	100	100	200	200
2021-22	100	100	200	200
2022-23	100	100	200	200
2023-24	100	100	200	200
2024-25	100	100	200	200
2025-26	100	100	200	200
2026-27	100	100	200	200

**Visit the SSBA website to view the updated Education Funding one-pager, representing ongoing advocacy.**

Visit the [SSBA website](https://www.ssbask.ca) to view the updated Education Funding one-pager, representing ongoing advocacy.

**2026 SSBA Spring Assembly (held Apr. 16-17 in Saskatoon)**



**Keynote Speaker: "Why Indigenous Education is not the right thing to do...it's the only thing to do" – Niigaan James Sinclair**



**Greetings from the Government of Saskatchewan (virtual) –  
Legislative Secretary for Education, Dakota-Arm River MLA Barret Kropf**



**SSBA President's Address –  
Dr. Shawn Davidson**

**2026 SSBA Spring Assembly (held Apr. 16-17 in Saskatoon)**



***Development of a Provincial Northern/Rural/Remote Education Strategy: An Interim Report – Dr. Greg McLannet and Dr. Paul Newton, Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)***



***Equitable Education for Students with Reading Disabilities – Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Chief Commissioner Trenea Sikora and Maria Soonias Ali***



***Spring Assembly – Trustees and other attendees participated in the event in Saskatoon in April***



*"The mission of the SSBA is to provide leadership, coordination and services to member boards of education to support student achievement."*

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## Calendar Update

Upcoming dates in 2026:

### Employee Benefits Plan Seminar

May 7-8

Saskatoon

### Canadian School Boards Association

#### 2026 Trustee Gathering on

#### Education, Innovation, and Reconciliation

July 5-8

Hosted By:

*British Columbia School Trustees Association*

## General Insurance Plan Loss Prevention Seminar



The 2026 SSBA General Insurance Plan Seminar was held in the Saskatoon area on March 26. Fourteen delegates from 10 school divisions attended. (Attendance declined for the second consecutive year, again due to severe weather, announced a day prior to both events. However, seminar quality remains strong and highly valued.) The seminar covered a number of areas of interest and value to the school division context including: 1) 'Reducing Sports Injuries in Schools: From Equipment and Facilities to Supervision and Emergency Response'; 2) 'Physical Security and Facility Protection: Best Practices for Schools'; and, 3) 'Interpreting and Acting on Suncorp Loss Prevention Reports: A Guide to Reducing Risks and Losses in Schools'.