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## Does Independent Schools funding make a mockery of the public schools funding formula?

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By Margaret White, Research Analyst and Larry Kuehn, Director April 2015

On the surface, public funding for 2014–15 for independent schools has remained at 50% or 35% of the funding for public schools in the school district where the independent school is located. However, the ministry, in determining the factors used in the calculations, has quietly increased funding to the private schools.

These are some of those changes:

- 1. The ministry provided public school boards with additional funds in the form of the Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund. These were the funds promised to public boards to cover the cost of the settlement of the 2014 strike. But the ministry then added the amount of the Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund to the total used to calculate the independent schools grant. This extra \$81.5 million is reflected in the per student grant upon which the 50% or 35% is calculated. This adds an additional \$78 (Group 1) or \$55 (Group 2) for each student attending an independent school, providing at least \$5 million extra in funding for independent schools in 2014–15. In effect, the public school teacher gains from collective bargaining were handed to the private schools as well.
- 2. Funding for students in independent school Distributed Learning programs was increased to 63% (Group 1) or 44.1% (Group 2) of the amount that public schools are funded for Distributed Learning programs, rather than 50% or 35%.
- 3. Public schools have to account through audits for the number of students who bring additional funding to the district for English Language Learners, Aboriginal students, Adult Learners, or Vulnerable students (associated with poverty). But the ministry includes the amounts for these supplements in the total amount upon which the independent school funding is based. The impact is that a portion of the per student funding for private schools is derived from the supplements for each of these categories of students, even if there are no English Language Learners, Aboriginal or other funded categories of students attending the private school.

- 4. Independent schools can get a double boost when students move from a public school to an independent school. The student brings the ministry grant with them—effectively a voucher system. If public school enrolment is declining in the school district, the district may receive an enrolment decline supplement to help with costs that don't necessarily decrease when there are fewer students. The ministry includes the declining enrolment supplement in the base amount used to calculate the per student grant for independent schools. This means an independent school receives a portion of the enrolment decline supplement intended for public schools, even when the enrolment in the private school increases. This, in effect, gives a bonus to the private school for the students it takes from the public schools.
- 5. Independent schools are now given 100% as much as public schools for students with identified special needs in categories 1, 2, and 3.

The formula applied to determine independent school funding is complex and confusing, as one can see from the detailed descriptions in the rest of this report. That lack of transparency makes it possible to disguise increases in independent school funding while public schools face continuing lack of adequate funding.

## Background: How BC Independent schools are funded

This report describes the methodology used by the Ministry of Education to calculate per FTE student funding for independent schools and discusses the underlying inequities when the public school funding formula is applied to funding for private schools. Vancouver school district is provided as a case example to work through each step of the funding formula for public schools and to show how this applies to funding for independent schools.

Which types of independent schools receive funding from the provincial government? Independent (private) schools in BC offer an educational program to students for a fee. Those that follow the provincial curriculum and standards receive provincial funding, with the rate depending on how the per FTE student operating cost for the school compares to the *public schools per student FTE operating cost* (PSPSOC)<sup>1</sup> for the district in which the independent school is located. These schools are classified<sup>2</sup> in Group 1 if the school's per student operating costs<sup>3</sup> are lower than the PSOC<sup>4</sup> amount issued in the local public school district, or in Group 2 if their per student operating costs are higher. Neither Group 3 schools nor Group 4 schools receive provincial funding<sup>5</sup>. Group 1 schools are primarily faith-based schools, while Group 2 schools are mostly elite private schools, and First Nations schools, for which different rules apply.

### What are the funding rates for Group 1 and Group 2 independent schools?

The *per FTE student grant for independent schools* is a measure used as a base to determine how much provincial funding a Group 1 or Group 2 independent school will receive for each FTE student. Adjustments to public schools operating funding are made and then the sub-total is divided by FTE enrolment for public schools to arrive at the per FTE student amount (referred to by the ministry as the *per FTE student grant for independent schools*). Qualifying independent schools are allocated a percentage of *the per FTE student grant* for the district in which they are located, depending on whether they are Group 1 schools (50%) or Group 2 schools (35%), with some exceptions. The rates as a percentage of the public schools amount are 100% for Students with Special Needs (additional funding on top of the formula-based funding), 63% for Distributed Learning (Group 1) schools, and 44.1% for Distributed Learning (Group 2) schools.

It is important to note that the 25 First Nations schools listed in Appendix 2 of the Independent School Regulation<sup>6</sup> are exceptions to the funding rate for Group 1 and Group 2 independent schools. These schools are funded at 100% of the public schools per-FTE amount and receive funding from the federal government. The analysis in this BCTF Research report applies only to Group 1 schools funded at 50% and Group 2 schools funded at 35%, not to First Nations schools.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ministry of Education. (April 1, 2014). *Public School Per Student FTE Operating Costs 2013/14*. Accessed February 5, 2015, at <a href="http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/independentschools/is\_resources/14\_operatingcosts.pdf">http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/independentschools/is\_resources/14\_operatingcosts.pdf</a>
<sup>2</sup> Additional information regarding classification of independent schools can be found at <a href="http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=177030F4A2B149BE8CA7ED59F585A104">http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=177030F4A2B149BE8CA7ED59F585A104</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The per-student operating cost for an independent school is calculated by dividing the total operating costs for the independent school by the total FTE students (except DL) attending the independent school. The *Independent School Regulation*, as of November 25, 2014 (<a href="http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/i/bcreg\_262-89.pdf">http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/i/bcreg\_262-89.pdf</a>), provides detailed instructions for calculating FTE student enrolment for Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 12.

<sup>4</sup> Public school districts receive funding through operating grants, and in some years, additional special purpose or discretionary grants from the province, to provide educational programs to students.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Neither Group 3 schools (which must meet minimal ministry requirements), nor Group 4 schools (which must meet provincial education standards but the majority of students are international or non-resident), receive provincial funding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See BC Ministry of Education, Governance and Legislation Branch. *Independent School Regulation* (November 25, 2014), p. I-12, Percentages – 4, and Appendix 2 on p. I-16. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw/i/bcreg 262-89.pdf

How does the ministry calculate the per FTE student grant for independent schools?

Several steps are involved in the calculation of the *per FTE student grant for independent schools*. The ministry document *Funding Rates for Independent Schools* shows that for each district, the ministry starts with the total amount of operating grants<sup>7</sup> for public schools (recalculated grants), subtracts the amount of the Special Needs supplement, and then adds the amounts for other special grants to arrive at the *operating grant sub-total*. In 2014–15, the special grants included the Provincial Learning Network (\$34.5 million), and the Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund (\$81.5 million). This *operating grant sub-total* is then divided by actual public school FTE enrolment as of September 30 (October 17 for 2014–15) to arrive at the per FTE student grant of \$8,307. Group 1 schools are funded at 50% and Group 2 schools at 35%.

Total 2014/15 Operating Grants, September and Summer 2014 (Public)	\$4,643,009,285
Subtract: Total Supplemental Special Needs Funding	\$414,730,700
Sub-total	\$4,228,278,585
Add: Provincial Learning Network	\$34,484,285
Add: Discretionary Grant - 2014/15 Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund	\$81,542,536
Operating grant sub-total amount (Public)	\$4,344,305,406
Divide by: Total FTE Students, Public schools as of October 17, 2014	522,939
Final Per FTE Student Grant, 2014/15 (Provincial average)	\$8,307
Group 1 schools per FTE student amount at 50%	\$4,154
Group 2 schools per FTE student amount at 35%	\$2,907

Sources: Ministry of Education. (December 2014). *Funding rates for Independent Schools, 2014/15, Final.* Table 2, Public school district operating grant sub-total to calculate the per FTE student grant for Independent Schools, 2014/15; Table 3, 2014/15 Public school district FTE students; and Table 4, Determination of per FTE student grant for Independent Schools, 2014/15. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/independentschools/is\_resources/funding\_rates.pdf

### How much funding per student does a Group 1 and Group 2 independent school receive?

The actual amount per FTE student for each school is based on the district in which the independent school is located. Table 5 of the report *Funding Rates for Independent Schools* – 2014/15, shows that the *per FTE* student grant used as a base for independent schools ranges from \$7,555 in Langley (SD 35) to \$26,664 for Central Coast (SD 49). Group 1 schools would receive 50% of this amount (\$3,778 to \$13,332) per FTE student, and Group 2 schools 35% (\$2,644 to \$9,322). School districts in remote areas of BC such as Central Coast tend to have higher per FTE student funding amounts, but have few or no independent schools.

District	Independent Schools	Group 1	Group 2	# Grp 1	# Grp 2
District	per-FTE Grant	schools@50%	schools@35%	schools	schools
Langley (SD 35)	\$7,555	\$3,778	\$2,644	9	1
Vancouver (SD 39)	\$7,896	\$3948	\$2,764	35	12
Vernon (SD 22)	\$8,220	\$4110 \$2877		3	0
Fraser-Cascade (SD 78)	\$10,840	\$5,420	\$3,794	1	1
Fort Nelson (SD 81)	\$12,104	\$6,052	\$4,236	0	1
Central Coast (SD 49)	\$26,664	\$13,332	\$9,332	1	2

Sources: Ministry of Education. (December 2014). *Funding Rates for Independent Schools, 2014/15 – Final:* Table 5, Per FTE funding rates by group for independent schools, 2014/15. Number of independent schools: *BC K-12 School and District Contact Information*, School Information (Excel download) as of September 2014, accessed February 5, 2015 at <a href="http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/Home.do">http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/Home.do</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The total operating grants funding is based on September and Summer 2014 enrolment.

## What supplements are included in the operating grants for public schools?

The funding formula for public schools includes several supplements in addition to the basic allocation of about \$6,900 per FTE school-aged student, to reflect differing characteristics (geographic, enrolment, composition of students) between school districts that affect district operating costs. Public school boards must provide evidence that they meet the criteria to qualify for each category of additional funding. The supplements include the Enrolment Decline supplement, Salary Differential, Unique Geographic Factors, BC Education Plan, and Funding Protection, in addition to the Unique Student Needs supplement (for Students with Special Needs, English Language Learners, Aboriginal Students, Adult Learners, and Vulnerable Students).

Only the amount of the Supplement for Special Needs is subtracted from the district operating grant amount for public schools to arrive at the *operating grant sub-total* used to calculate the per FTE student grant that is used as a base for Independent schools funding. All other supplements are included in the *operating grant sub-total* amount and therefore are reflected in the *per FTE student grant for Independent schools*. Because a portion of the per FTE student grant is derived from each of these supplements that comprise the funding formula for public schools, an independent school in effect receives this funding without having to meet the rigorous criteria set for public schools.

#### What about all the other supplements for Students with Unique Needs?

Except for the supplement for Students with Special Needs, a portion of the *per FTE student grant for independent schools* is derived from the district amounts allocated for students in public schools who are English Language Learners, Aboriginal, Adult learners, or Vulnerable students (associated with poverty). Independent schools automatically receive a portion of this supplement for each FTE student whether the school has students who meet the criteria or not, by nature of the funding formula.

#### Are independent schools taking from the poor to give to the rich?

Yes, if an independent school receives funding that is derived from supplements for Aboriginal Students, English Language Learners, Adult and/or Vulnerable, and that independent school does not have students who meet the criteria, that funding is going to private schools when it could be used to provide extra learning support to these students in the public education system. This is especially so when the ministry claims it cannot afford to address class size and composition needs in public schools. Nor is it fair that while public schools must meet strict criteria to be eligible for supplemental funding for ELL/FLL, Aboriginal, adult students, and vulnerable students, independent schools are not required to do so.

## What about the Enrolment Decline supplement in the operating grants for public schools?

Public schools must demonstrate they meet the criteria for the Enrolment Decline supplement, which is based on the percentage decline in enrolment compared to the previous year, in order to receive it. Some districts also receive additional funding for a cumulative enrolment decline over three years. However, even if enrolment *increases* at an independent school, a portion of the *per FTE student grant* received by independent schools is derived from the amount of the enrolment decline supplement allocated to public schools in the district.

### Why do independent schools receive a portion of the Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund?

The Discretionary Grant - 2014/15 Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund was also included in the *operating grants sub-total* for public schools, before calculating the *per FTE student grant* used as the base for independent school funding. This further inflates the amount of funding independent schools receive. This extra \$81.5 million is reflected in the per student grant upon which the 50% or 35% is calculated. This adds an additional \$78 (Group 1) or \$55 (Group 2) for each student attending an independent school, which provides at least \$5 million in extra funding to independent schools in 2014–15. It is difficult to see the rationale for this, as the Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund is intended to cover the additional costs arising from the recent labour settlement for public school teachers. Most Independent schools are not unionized, and therefore not covered by the collective agreement for public school teachers.

#### Portion of per FTE student grant for independent schools derived from the Labour Settlement Fund

Amount of Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund	\$81,542,536
FTE enrolment as of September 2014	522,939
FTE Independent School Grant (per student base)	\$156
Amount for Group 1 schools @50% of \$156	\$78
Amount for Group 2 schools @35% of \$156	\$55

### Total additional funding to independent schools derived from the Labour Settlement Fund

Type of Independent schools	Per student	FTE students (est.)	Total funding (est.)
Group 1 standard schools	\$78	54,833	\$ 4,275,059
Group 2 standard schools	\$55	16,225	\$ 885,516
		71,058	\$5,160,575

BCTF estimate using 2014–15 FTE enrolment data from Ministry of Education – *Independent Schools, Enrolment and Funding Data*. This estimate assumes 2014–15 FTE enrolment in Group 1 schools comprises 77% of total FTE enrolment for both Group 1 and Group 2 standard schools, the same as for headcount data.

#### How has the per FTE student grant for independent schools changed over time?

Ministry funding documents show that the provincial average per FTE student grant used as a base for independent schools funding increased each year from 2011–12 to 2014–15. In 2014–15, the amount of the *per FTE student funding rates* is \$254 higher for Group 1 schools and \$177 higher for Group 2 schools compared to 2011–12.

Per FTE Student Grant and Funding Rates for Group 1 and Group 2 Independent Schools (Final): 2011–12, 2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15

	Per FTE Student Grant (Final) for Independent schools						
Year	Base	Group 1	Group 2				
Tear	amount*	schools@50%	schools@35%				
2011–12	\$7,800	\$3,900	\$2,730				
2012–13	\$7,888	\$3,944	\$2,761				
2013–14	\$8,104	\$4,052	\$2,836				
2014–15	\$8,307	\$4,154	\$2,907				
Change since 2011–12	+\$507	+\$254	+\$177				

Figures from: Ministry of Education. Funding Rates for Independent Schools - Final (Recalculated Grants), for the relevant years.

<sup>\*</sup> The *per FTE student independent schools grant* is used as a base amount to apply the rate for Group 1 (50%) and Group 2 (35%) independent schools.

## Vancouver (SD 39) as a case example

This section shows the step-by-step process for how the ministry calculates the per-student amount for independent schools funding, using Vancouver (SD39) as an example. To help illustrate the inequities in the formula as it is applied to independent schools, data on enrolment and student characteristics for each of four independent schools in Vancouver (two in the west-side and two on the east-side of Vancouver) are included in the sample.

# Public schools funding—the starting point for calculating independent schools funding

The following table shows the funding allocation for basic enrolment and supplementary grants for public schools in Vancouver (SD 39), based on September 2014<sup>8</sup> and Summer Learning 2014 enrolment. This is the total operating grants (\$428,125,346) used as a starting point to calculate the per FTE student grant used as the base for independent schools funding for Vancouver.

Funding category	2014–15 Recalculated	
Basic enrolment-based funding – Public, as of October 17, 2014 (SD	Source	
Standard (Regular) Schools, Continuing Ed, Alt. Schools, DL, plus	\$347,031,902	Table 2a, 2b
Home School and Course Challenge	ψ3 17 )03 1/3 02	
Supplementary funding		
Enrolment decline	\$1,669,992	Tables 2a, 3b
Unique student needs	\$57,151,951	Tables 2a, 4c
Salary differential	\$14,903,410	Tables 2a, 5b
Unique geographic factors	\$2,465,089	Tables 2a, 6
Funding protection	\$0	Tables 2a, 7
Education Plan	\$1,026,764	Tables 2a, 8
Sub-total, supplements only	\$77,217,206	
Holdback allocation	\$3,876,238	Tables 2a, 14
Subtotal, basic funding, supplements, and holdback	\$428,125,346	Table 2a
Summer Learning 2014	\$0	Tables 9b, 9c
Total operating grant, September and Summer 2014(SD 39)	\$428,125,346	

Source: Ministry of Education. 2014/15 Interim Operating Grants tables (December 2014). http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/k12funding/funding/14-15/operating-grant-tables.pdf

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> For 2014–15 only, enrolment count is as of October 17, 2014.

## Applying the funding formula to calculate the Independent Schools grant

The table below shows how the *per FTE student grant for independent schools* is calculated, using Vancouver school district data. The *operating grants sub-total* used to calculate the *FTE student grant for independent schools* is arrived at by subtracting the amount of the Special needs supplement, and then adding the amount public schools receive for the Provincial Learning Network and for the Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund. This sub-total is divided by FTE enrolment in public schools for SD39 to arrive at a per student amount (referred to as the *per FTE student grant for independent schools*) of \$7,896 per student, of which Group 1 schools receive 50% per FTE student and Group 2 schools receive 35% per FTE student.

## Applying the funding formula to calculate the per student grant (base) for Independent Schools

Total operating grant, September and Summer 2014 (SD 39)	\$428,125,346	
Subtract: Special needs supplement (Public-SD39)	\$40,332,400	Table 2
Sub-total Sub-total	\$387,792,946	
Add: Provincial Learning Network (Public–SD39)	\$3,327,224	Table 2
Sub-total Sub-total	\$391,120,170	
Add: Teachers' Labour Settlement Fund (Public-SD39)	\$7,884,432	Table 2
Operating grants sub-total amount (public)	\$399,004,602	
Divide by FTE enrolment (Public–SD39)*	50,530	Table 3
Per FTE student grant for Independent schools (Vancouver)	\$7,896	Table 4

Source: Source: Ministry of Education. 2014/15 Interim Operating Grants tables (December 2014).

The next table shows the amount of the *per FTE student grant for independent schools* in Vancouver depending on whether the school fits the criteria for a Group 1 or Group 2 school. In addition, the ministry provides independent schools with supplementary funding for each designated special needs students (Level 1, 2, and 3) at 100% of the public amount.

Per FTE student grant for Independent schools (SD 39)	\$7,896	Table 5
Group 1 schools per FTE student amount at 50%	\$3,948	Table 5
Group 2 schools per FTE student amount at 35%	\$2,764	Table 5

Source: Ministry of Education. *Funding rates for Independent Schools - Final*, December 2014. Available online at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/independentschools/is resources/funding rates.pdf

## Hidden inequities in the independent schools funding formula

The following table shows, for each supplement and additional grants added into the funding formula for independent schools, the *per FTE student grant* for Group 1 and Group 2 independent schools. *Other Unique Student Needs* includes supplemental funding for public schools for ELL/FLL, Aboriginal, and Adult students. Some districts also receive the Vulnerable Students supplement.

### Other supplements in the funding formula for public schools

Other supplements in the funding formula for public schools include supplements for Enrolment Decline, Salary Differential, Unique Geographic Factors, the BC Education Plan, and Funding Protection. The per-student amount for independent schools includes a portion of these supplements, whether the school meets the criteria set for public schools or not.

## Portion of per FTE funding for independent schools that is derived from each supplement in the public schools funding formula (SD 39) – 2014/15 Recalculated Operating Grants

	Pu	ıblic (SD39)		Independe	nt (SD 39)
	Funding	FTE	Per FTE	Group 1	Group 2
	amount	students	\$ amount	@50%	at 35%
Operating grants basic enrolment a	nd supplements	as of Octobe	er 17, 2014)		
Basic enrolment-based funding	\$347,031,902	50,530	\$6,868	\$3,434	\$ 2,404
Enrolment decline	\$1,669,992	50,530	\$ 33	\$ 17	\$ 12
Unique student needs supplement less Special Needs supplement*	\$16,819,551	50,530	\$ 333	\$ 166	\$117
Salary differential	\$14,903,410	50,530	\$ 295	\$ 147	\$103
Unique geographic factors	\$2,465,089	50,530	\$ 49	\$ 24	\$17
Funding protection	\$0	50,530	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education Plan	\$1,026,764	50,530	\$ 20	\$ 10	\$7
Holdback allocation	\$3,876,238	50,530	\$ 77	\$ 38	\$27
Special Grants added by the Ministry					
Teacher Labour Settlement Fund	\$7,883,432	50,530	\$ 156	\$ 78	\$55
Provincial Learning Network	\$3,327,224	50,530	\$ 66	\$ 33	\$23
	\$399,003,602	50,530	\$ 7,896	\$3,948	\$2,764

<sup>\*</sup> The supplementary funding for special needs students (Level 1, 2, and 3) is removed from the total and additional funding is provided for each special needs student at 100% of the public amount.

## Independent schools derive funding from the Enrolment Decline supplement even if enrolment increases at the school

The funding formula for public schools includes a supplement for school districts experiencing enrolment decline. Public schools must provide evidence of the decrease in FTE school-aged students, and receive a supplement if enrolment decline exceeds a certain threshold. FTE school-aged enrolment decreased in Vancouver public schools by 2.6% in 2013–14. An independent school in Vancouver would receive from 35% to 50% of the amount of the enrolment decline supplement (per FTE student) for public schools even if enrolment *increased* at the school. A sample of four independent schools in Vancouver shows FTE enrolment *increased* between 2012–13 and 2013–14 for three schools, yet these schools would receive funding that is derived from the Enrolment Decline supplement allocated to public schools for *decreased* enrolment.

FTE enrolment a four independent schools in SD 39 (2012-13 to 2013-14)

School	2012–13	2013-14	Change
St. George's School (K-12)	944.0	1,122.1	178.1
Crofton House (K-12)	789.9	815.0	25.1
Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary	240.0	240.0	0.0
Notre Dame Regional Secondary	628.0	669.0	41.0

Source: Ministry of Education, *2013–14 Student Statistics*, by school. Accessed on February 5, 2015, from <a href="http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/ind.php">http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/ind.php</a>.

## **Other Unique Student Needs**

The following table shows the portion of the *per FTE student grant for independent schools* in Vancouver for *Other Unique Student Needs*, including ELL/FLL students, Aboriginal students, and FTE Adult students. Unlike for public schools, independent schools receive this funding whether or not the school has any students in these groups attending the school. The following table shows that the Unique Student Needs supplement adds another \$333 to the base per student allocation (i.e., \$166 per student for Group 1 and \$117 for Group 2 schools).

Unique Student needs supplement, SD 39 Tables 4a, 4b, 4c in 2014/15 Interim Operating Grants tables

	Public (SD 39)			Inde	pendent	
Other Unique Student	# of	Operating	FTE	Per student	Group	Group
Needs	students	Grant	enrolment	Grant* (base)	1	2
ELL/FLL ( headcount) @ \$1,340	10,159	\$ 13,613,060	50,530	\$269	\$134.50	\$94.15
Aboriginal Education (headcount) @ \$1,160	2,041	\$2,367,560	50,530	\$47	\$23.50	\$16.45
Adult Education (FTE) @ \$4,430	189.375	\$838,931	50,530	\$ 17	\$8.50	\$5.95
Vulnerable Students		\$0	50,530			
Total - Other Unique Student Needs*		\$16,819,551	50,530	\$333	\$166.50	\$116.55

<sup>\*</sup> Amount of Unique Student Needs supplement for each group divided by FTE public enrolment (50,530).

While 2014–15 Student Statistics data is not yet available, the 2013–14 data from school reports for independent schools show that the four schools in Vancouver included in this sample have no or very few students in the ELL, Aboriginal, or Adult student groups. Yet a portion of the funding for these independent schools is derived from the public schools allocation for students with unique needs attending BC public schools. And the independent school receives the Unique *Student Needs* portion of the per-student grant for *every* student who attends the school, because it is built in to the formula.

2013-14 enrolment of students in Unique Student Needs categories

		Student groups - Unique student needs								
	Specia	Special needs		Special needs ELL/FLL Aboriginal		Adult		DL		
School	НС	plus Gifted	нс	FTE	нс	FTE	НС	FTE	НС	FTE
St. George's School (K-12)	47	5	0	0	1	1.0	0	0	37	
Crofton House (K-12)	16	0	8	8.0	0	0	0	0	13	
Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Notre Dame Regional Secondary	36	0	0	0	2	2.0	1	?	5	

Source: Ministry of Education, 2013–14 Student Statistics, by school. Accessed on February 5, 2015, from <a href="http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/ind.php">http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/ind.php</a>.

	School enrolment		
School	Headcount	FTE	
St. George's School (K-12)	1,156	1,122.1	
Crofton House (K-12)	824	815.0	
Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary	240	240.0	
Notre Dame Regional Secondary	669	669.0	

Source: Ministry of Education, 2013–14 Student Statistics, by school. Accessed on February 5, 2015, from <a href="http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/ind.php">http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/ind.php</a>.

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## Independent Schools, Vancouver, as of September 30, 2014

School Name	City	Grade Range	School Category	Funding	Enrolment
			· .	Group(s)	Total
Anchor Point Montessori	Vancouver	K-9	Independent School	1	72
Avenir School	N. Vancouver	4-12	Independent School	1	16
Blessed Sacrament School	Vancouver	1-7	Independent School	1	215
Children's Hearing and Speech Centre BC	Vancouver	K-1	Independent School	1	10
Corpus Christi School	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	278
Fawkes Academy DL	Vancouver	K-8, EU, SU	Independent School	1	42
Fraser Academy	Vancouver	2-12	Independent School	1	219
Immaculate Conception School	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	200
King David High School	Vancouver	8-12	Independent School	1	186
Little Flower Academy	Vancouver	8-12	Independent School	1	478
Notre Dame Regional Secondary	Vancouver	8-12	Independent School	1	676
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	437
Our Lady of Sorrows	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	242
Pacific Rim Montessori Academy	Richmond	K-6	Independent School	1	39
Pacific Spirit School	Richmond	K-7	Independent School	1	48
Pacific Torah Institute	Vancouver	8-12	Independent School	1	35
PALS Autism School	Vancouver	1-12	Independent School	1	17
S7umux Kindergarten	Vancouver	К	Independent School	1	19
SelfDesign Learning Community (DL)	Vancouver	K-12, EU, GA	Independent School	1	2,228
St Andrew's	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	220
St Anthony of Padua	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	194
St Augustine's	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	232
St Francis of Assisi	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	215
St Francis Xavier	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	442
St Joseph's	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	198
St Jude's	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	229
St Mary's	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	246
St Patrick Regional Secondary	Vancouver	8-12	Independent School	1	498
St Patrick Regional Secondary  St Patrick's Elementary		K-7	•	1	231
Vancouver Christian	Vancouver Vancouver	K-8	Independent School	1	417
Vancouver College	Vancouver	K-12	Independent School	1	1,065
J			Independent School Independent School		
Vancouver Montassari Sahaal	Vancouver	K-7		1	96
Vancouver Montessori School	Vancouver	K, EU	Independent School		124
Vancouver Talmud Torah Elementary	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	1	418
West Coast Christian School	Vancouver	K-12	Independent School	1	140
Crofton House	Vancouver	K-12	Independent School	2	838
Family Montessori School	Vancouver	K	Independent School	2	11
Ivy Montessori School	Vancouver	K	Independent School	2	9
Madrona School	Vancouver	K-7	Independent School	2	54
Pattison School	Vancouver	9-12	Independent School	2	73
St George's School	Vancouver	1-12	Independent School	2	1,155
St John's School	Vancouver	K-12	Independent School	2	531
Stratford Hall	Vancouver	K-12	Independent School	2	508
The Westside School	Vancouver	K-12	Independent School	2	136
West Point Grey Academy	Vancouver	K-12	Independent School	2	903
Westside Montessori Academy	Vancouver	K-5	Independent School	2	41
York House School	Vancouver	K-12	Independent School	2	643
Eaton Arrowsmith School	Vancouver	2-12	Independent School	3	84
Magnussen School	Vancouver	K-8	Independent School	3	26
Westside Montessori	Vancouver	K	Independent School	3	15
Alexander Academy	Vancouver	10-12	Independent School	4	24
Century High School	Vancouver	10-12	Independent School	4	99
Columbia College	Vancouver	11-12	Independent School	4	77
Pacific Torah Institute International	Vancouver	8-12	Independent School	4	13
Pattison High School	Vancouver	9-12	Independent School	4	97
Royal Canadian College	Vancouver	8-12	Independent School	4	139
St John's International	Vancouver	10-12	Independent School	4	278
Vancouver Formosa Academy	Vancouver	7-12	Independent School	4	33

Source: Ministry of Education web page, <a href="http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/Home.do">http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/Home.do</a>, "School Information, Select All", sorted for Vancouver independent schools.

See page 3 of this document for a description of the groups and their funding levels.

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