

OLEP Webinar

Overview and Update

May 2020 Fact Sheet

Regular funding

Alberta receives French federal funding in two funding streams:

- Regular funding (guaranteed during the protocol term)
- Complementary funding (requires an application and approval from the federal government)

Alberta's portion of the regular funding is divided between Education and Advanced Education, and each of those respective portions is divided between minority-language francophone education and second-language instruction (French immersion programs and French as a second language courses).

Minority-language education's portion of the regular funding is allocated to three categories:

- Individual Teacher Bursary Program
- Student Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) Funding
- Project Funding

The Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (FCSFA) works with each francophone school authority to determine how much of the regular funding will be allocated to Student FTE Funding, and how much will be allocated to Project Funding for each year.

Second-language instruction's portion of the regular funding is allocated to four categories:

- Individual Teacher Bursary Program
- Quebec Student Exchange Program
- Student FTE Funding
- Project Funding

Alberta Education determines how much of the regular funding will be allocated to Student FTE Funding, and how much will be allocated to Project Funding for each year.

A flowchart and a detailed allocation spreadsheet for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 are provided on the [OLEP webpage](#). Additional details on the new funding formula are provided in the [Funding manual for school authorities 2020-21 school year](#).

Complementary funding



Provinces and territories have an opportunity each year to apply for complementary funding for projects from the federal government. This is funding in addition to the regular funding outlined above.

Complementary funding is divided into three categories:

- Capital Projects (for minority-language education)
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention Projects
- Complementary Projects

Each year the federal government issues "calls for proposals" for the above projects. Education and Advanced Education work with school authorities to apply for complementary funding, and the federal government decides which applications will receive funding. Details on how Alberta will apply for complementary funding through these three categories will be provided in the future.

For more information, please visit Alberta's [OLEP webpage](#)

Regular funding allocations



Beginning in 2021-22, Education will move to a 50-50 split in the allocation of funding between French minority-language education and French second-language instruction. This

ratio includes the additional funding that the federal government has dedicated to minority-language education.

The new ratio was determined after significant consultation with education partners through the OLEP Provincial Advisory Committee.

Historically, minority-language Early Childhood Services (ECS) to Grade 12 education was underfunded, and this change would amend the funding balance between both language streams.

Minority-language education is a right under Section 23 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. To ensure equitable outcomes and equal opportunities for all students in our province, Francophone school authorities are treated according to the circumstances and needs of their communities in order to provide an overall educational experience that is substantively equivalent to that of the majority.

Alberta Education and the OLEP Provincial Advisory Committee are looking for opportunities for francophone and second-language boards to collaborate and ensure resources and access to professional development are not impacted.

Regular funding: French second-language projects

Regular funding for French second-language projects funded at the end of the 2013-14 to 2018-19 protocol ended in 2018-19. In order to support school authorities in the transition to the new funding allocation model, Alberta Education funded all of these projects for an additional year in 2019-20.

Beginning in 2020-21, Alberta Education has shifted a larger allocation of regular funding from projects over to the student FTE model, which will provide school authorities with more flexibility in managing their own initiatives and enable them to collaborate with regional school boards with common interests at their own discretion.

The selection of projects to receive funding for 2020-21 was made based on:

- previously granted projects that have shown significant success over the last seven years; or
- proposals that were submitted for complementary funding that showed significant promise and were not approved at the federal level.

Additionally, these projects are collaborative, involve multiple boards, meet current needs present across the province, and are far-reaching, providing support to school authorities across large regions and/or the entire province.

Moving forward, the aim of funding for second-language projects will be to increase collaboration between school authorities and ensure knowledge and resources that exist across the province are shared and benefit as many students as possible.

If school authorities would like to initiate a new project or expand an existing project, it may be possible to shift some funds from the overall student FTE funding towards the project in the future. Projects that cease to be collaborative, wide-reaching and/or impactful will no longer be funded, and their funding will be reallocated either to new or existing projects, or shifted to student FTE funding.

Alberta Education has already allocated regular funding to projects for 2020-21. Approval for future project funding will be made based on emerging needs. There may also be an opportunity to submit proposals for complementary federal funding.

Funded projects are collaborative, wide-reaching and involve multiple boards

Sliding scale for funding rates per FTE funded student

Beginning in 2020-21, second-language funding rates per FTE funded student will be on a sliding scale. This means that school authorities with a lower number of FTE funded students will receive slightly more per FTE funded student.

This is to ensure school authorities with smaller French immersion programs and French as a second language courses receive adequate funding for their programs. The sliding scale and specific FTE rates can be found in the [Funding manual for school authorities 2020-21 school year](#).

Spending timeline

Regular OLEP funding cannot be transferred between school years.

The timeline for spending regular OLEP funding is as follows:

- 2019-20 funding must be spent by June 30, 2020
- 2020-21 funding must be spent between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021

Alberta Education may change these timelines in future years.

OLEP reporting

Once allocations are posted to the [OLEP webpage](#), they are guaranteed as long as school authorities complete the required reporting forms by the deadlines identified.

For 2019-20, all school authorities who received OLEP funding, including those that only received Student FTE funding, must complete a [2019-2020 OLEP Report Form](#) by August 31, 2020.

For 2020-2021, all school authorities receiving OLEP funding, including those only receiving FTE student funding, must complete an [OLEP Funding Commitment Form](#) by August 31, 2020.

Project funding recipients must complete a separate OLEP Report Form and Funding Commitment Form for their respective projects.

These reporting requirements are in place to collect feedback from OLEP funding recipients, to anticipate and measure the impact of OLEP funding on French-language education programs, and to assist in reporting to the federal government.

All school authorities receiving any OLEP funding must complete an OLEP Report Form and an OLEP Funding Commitment Form

OLEP Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

The OLEP PAC is an advisory committee comprised of proportional representation of representatives from minority-language and second-language school authorities, rural and urban school authorities from diverse geographical areas of the province, and Alberta Education officials. It is not a decision-making body.

Moving forward, the OLEP PAC will continue to discuss and strategize direction and leadership to ensure the vitality of Francophone education and French as a second language programming in Alberta through targeted funding, enriched program delivery, and collaborative action. Membership will be renewed every two years, and a process for determining new members is currently being discussed.