

# **YUKON TERRITORY**

Department of Education

## **I. GENERAL BACKGROUND**

The Department allots funds for Kindergarten to Grade 12 programs delivered by 29 schools. The Department of Education in the Yukon is structured differently than the provinces or other territories. The Yukon does not have various school districts or school boards (with the exception of the Yukon Francophone School Board) as other jurisdictions do and therefore funds all costs from its annual budget.

A student residence is provided to permit students from small communities, where no high school facilities exist, to attend high school in Whitehorse.

## **II. LOCAL SCHOOL REVENUE**

N/A

## **III. TAX AND SPENDING LIMITS**

No tax limits—spending is limited to budget approval including supplementary budgets

## **IV. STATE/PROVINCIAL EARMARKED TAX REVENUE**

N/A

## **V. BASIC SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Includes all direct O&M costs of operating the schools (including the cost of all school based staff, materials, supplies, maintenance, security, grounds keeping and utilities) Total forecast expenditures for 1998–1999 are \$49.8 million. This also includes salaries for most of the staff dedicated to Special Education i.e.: 52 FTE's for Teachers and Education Assistants.

Student enrollment figures are based on actual enrollment for September 30 of any year.

The school based staff FTE's are calculated using student enrollment figures as follows:

## **Teachers**

### **Elementary:** Grades 1 - 7

Where the projected elementary school population for the first day of school exceeds 75 students, teachers will be assigned according to the following formula:

(a) Primary:

Grades 1-3: one teacher for every 23 students to a maximum of one teacher for every 25 students.

(b) Intermediate:

Grades 4-7: one teacher for every 26 students to a maximum of one teacher for every 28 students.

### **Secondary:** Grades 8–12:

Where the projected high school population for the first day of school exceeds 100 students, teachers will be assigned according to the following formula:

One teacher for every 20 students to a maximum of 25 students.

## **Secretaries/School Librarians**

Administrative staff are assigned by student enrollment. The maximum FTE allotment for teacher librarians in a school will be 1.0. The maximum hours for library clerks is 15 hours per week.

## **Remedial Tutors**

The total number of remedial tutors is determined by dividing the total projected public school population by 245 and rounded to the nearest .5 PY.

## **Education Assistants:**

The total number of Educational Assistant FTE's deployed throughout all the schools is determined by dividing the total projected enrollment by 90 and rounding to the nearest .5 FTE. Educational Assistant positions are not allocated

on a formula basis. Educational Assistants are allocated to specific students where the requirements of the child's Individual Education Plan require the support of an Educational Assistant.

### **Aboriginal Language Instructors**

The total number of Aboriginal Language Instructors and staff deployed at the Native Language Center is determined by providing the total projected public school population by 220 and rounding to the nearest .5 PY.

### **Substitute Teachers**

Substitute teacher funding is budgeted for using historical information.

School Operation & Maintenance (O & M) Funding:

This category of school funding now includes funding for: Program Materials, Field Trips, Postage and Freight and Communications.

The funding for this category is determined by the student enrollment and weighted by a previously determined factor.

## **VI. TRANSPORTATION**

The Department of Education currently provides transportation to all students living more than 3 km away from the school they attend. The annual budget is approximately \$3.2 million.

## **VII. SPECIAL EDUCATION**

This topic is known as "Special Programs" within the Department of Education. It is this area that provides the specialized equipment/testing that various students throughout the Yukon may require. The total 1998–1999 forecast expenditures are \$1.1 million.

The following positions are funded from this area:

School Psychologist	2.0 FTE
Occupational Therapist	1.0 FTE
Speech & Language Consultants	2.0 FTE

Psycho-educational Consultant	1.0 FTE
Speech/Language Coordinator	1.0 FTE
Physiotherapist	1 0 FTE
Coordinator, School Psychologist Services	1.0 FTE
Coordinator, School Support Services	1.0 FTE
Administrative Assistant	1.0 FTE
Teacher, Hearing Impaired	1.0 FTE

Under the “Basic Support Program” topic area, salaries are included there for the Teacher salaries that are dedicated to Special Education as well as the Education Assistants.

### **VIII. COMPENSATORY EDUCATION**

N/A

### **IX. GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION**

N/A

### **X. BILINGUAL EDUCATION**

Aboriginal Language Instructors are funded from the “Basic Program” topic area

The Department provides for the teaching of French as a first language (FFL), French as a second language (FSL) and French Immersion. The budget also provides for cultural activities, salaries for the Yukon Francophone School Board executive director and secretary, as well as the funding for the Board to operate. The total 98/99 forecast expenditures are \$750,430. However, this figure does not include salaries for FSL teachers, Education Assistants, etc. or the purchase of French related textbooks and materials (this is funded through our “Basic Support Program”. Funds for French programs are recoverable from the Secretary of State, Heritage Canada.

### **XI. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

N/A

## **XII. OTHER CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS**

N/A

## **XIII. TEACHER RETIREMENT AND BENEFITS**

Teacher retirement and benefit costs are not identifiable within our budget. The number that the Department of Education uses when budgeting is 13.5% of the total payroll.

## **XIV. TECHNOLOGY**

Funding for technology is included in the schools site based budgets, the departmental Operations and Maintenance budget and the Capital budget. This funding provides training and program development and the hardware and software acquisition required for schools to integrate distance learning into their programming. The 1998–1999 expenditures for this area were \$0.9 million. (This does not include the cost of upgrading computer labs for the installation of hardware/software)

## **XV. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE**

The 1998–1999 Capital expenditures for the Public Schools related activities are \$9.2 million.

The Department provides funding for facility construction, upgrading and maintenance, funds are also provided for furniture, equipment and support infrastructure for all Yukon Schools.

Expenditures for Facility Construction and Maintenance are triggered primarily by the growth in student population and pedagogical changes in the delivery of appropriate educational services. As Yukon follows British Columbia school curriculum, facility requirements in Yukon are in most cases determined by applying local student population projections to the British Columbia facility standards. In the case of rural communities however, Yukon has established the following overriding criteria.

A public school (Grades K–9) will be established in each rural community when: the community has 25 or more school age children living within 60 kilometers of the intended location scheduled for attendance in Grades K–9, and whose homes

are located at least 60 kilometers away from any other school of sufficient size to accommodate the students without a major capital expansion; and, a five-year projection of the number of K–9 students indicates a minimum of 25 students in any given year.

A rural school will expand to high school grades (10,11 and 12) when:

the community has 10 or more students enrolled in each grade (total of 30 students) whose homes are located at least 60 kilometers away from any other school of sufficient size to accommodate the students without a major capital expansion; and, a five-year projection of the number of high school students indicates that there will continue to be a total of at least 30 high school students in attendance in any given year.

#### **XVI. STANDARDS/ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

N/A

#### **XVII. REWARDS/SANCTIONS**

Yukon Excellence Awards and Student Financial Assistance.

#### **XVIII. FUNDING FOR NON-TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

N/A

#### **XIX. AID TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

N/A

#### **XX. RECENT/PENDING LITIGATION**

N/A

#### **XXI. SPECIAL TOPICS**

##### **Student Accommodations**

A student residence is provided to permit students from small communities, where no high school facilities exist, to attend high school in Whitehorse. Students are

charged residence fees of \$380.00 per month. However, they also receive a living away from home accommodation subsidy of \$270.00 per month. Net charge to each student is \$110.00. The 1998–1999 forecast expenditure for this is \$677,633. This figure includes the staff salaries, food expenses, etc

As well, the department provides funding assistance to parents of rural students attending school in Whitehorse but not staying at the Student Residence. This subsidy is \$270.00 per month for each month attended full time.