

# What's at Risk: The Real Cost to Burnaby Students

01

***The province made a \$9.4M mistake. Burnaby's 27,000 students are being asked to pay for it.***

*Last year Burnaby schools cut 37 staff positions and all discretionary programs to rebuild reserves. The Province is now directing the district to spend those savings on a debt they didn't create.*

*The law is clear. Section 116 of the School Act states the Minister must pay all expenditures incurred in operating BC schools. The Legislature already appropriated funds for teacher salaries through the 2022-25 collective agreement. BCPSEA misapplied them. The \$9.4M is the remainder of money the Province already committed, calculated wrong, and never paid. There is nothing left to cut except your child's supports and classroom.*

# 02

## *What's already gone*

<b>WHAT BURNABY'S KIDS GAVE UP IN 2025/26</b>	<b>WHAT THE PROVINCE IS NOW TAKING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>36.86</b> full-time positions eliminated</li><li>● 3 secondary counsellors leaving <b>45</b> to support <b>27,000</b> students</li><li>● Grade 7 band program</li><li>● Mandarin Language Arts</li><li>● MACC and BETA advanced learning programs</li><li>● Daytime elementary custodians reduced to on-call</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>\$4.8M</b> drawn from replenished reserves built from those cuts</li><li>● Unrestricted reserve after transfer: <b>\$2,712</b></li><li>● Province has made no commitment on remaining <b>\$4.6M</b></li><li>● Three-year projection: reserve hits <b>-\$6.3M</b> by 2028/29</li></ul>

*Burnaby's students already paid this price once.  
The Province is asking them to pay it again.*

# 03

## When Everything's Already Gone, What Gets Cut Next?

### Your Child's Programs

The district cut every discretionary program to address the 2025/26 \$4.2M shortfall, leaving nothing for the current \$9.4M crisis. The only remaining lever is accelerating the phase-out of the Mandarin and MACC gifted programs. Releasing all 11 teachers immediately saves an extra \$1.16M in year one and \$3.47M total. That's less than 13% of the shortfall, at the cost of children already enrolled.

SD41's ~849 educational assistants support 1,798 students with the most complex needs including Autism, Profound Intellectual Disabilities, Physical Disabilities, Visual Impairment, and Deafblindness. There is no legal minimum staffing ratio for EAs. To cover the \$9.4M shortfall entirely through EA cuts would require eliminating 259 positions, leaving one EA for every three of these students.

### Your Child's Supports

### Your Child's Class Size

SD41's 1,151 classroom teachers currently serve 27,338 students. The collective agreement sets hard maximums of 20 students for Kindergarten, 22 for Grades 1-3, 30 for Grades 4-7, and 31 for Grades 8-12. Cutting to that absolute floor means eliminating 72 teachers and adding an average of 2 students to every classroom in the district with zero flexibility remaining. Notably, even this drastic cut still leaves a \$2.4M gap in the \$9.4M shortfall.

- Estimates of average FTE annual salaries in SD41 based on the [Government of Canada 2023/24 teacher statistics](#) and the [SD41 2024/25 salary grid](#)
- FTE estimates based on [2025/26 amended annual budget Schedule 2C](#)
- Staffing ratios obtained from the [SD41 2022-25 BTA/BCTE collective agreement](#)
- CUPE support staff salaries were estimated from the [CUPE379 2022-2025 collective agreement](#).
- SD41 student enrollment numbers obtained from the [Government of Canada 2025/26 Student Headcount](#).
- Estimates of SD41 students with diverse abilities were obtained from [Table 4a of the provincial education 2026/27 budget](#).

# 04

## The Three-Year Picture

YEAR	PROJECTED RESERVE
2026-27	\$22,921
2027-28	-\$2,535,642
2028-29	-\$6,325,686

SD41 Preliminary FY2026/27 Budget

***Our kids' school district is in structural collapse unless the province is forced to act now. This is not a one-year problem, this will impact education for years to come.***