



Provincial Budget 2019 Education Highlights April 2019

On Tuesday, April 16, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced an allocation of **\$13 million**, an increase of \$6 million from last year, to continue the implementation of the recommendations from the Premier's Task Force:

This includes funding for:

- The continuation – Phase II – of the 3-year implementation of the Education Action Plan. Resources introduced last year for Phase 1 are maintained. 40 Phase II schools will be identified, with implementation to start September 2019, including:
 - 27.5 Reading Specialists allocated for Phase 2 schools
 - 12.5 additional units for Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs) allocated for Phase 2 schools
 - 49 Teaching and Learning Assistant positions allocated for Phase 2 schools

There will also be:

- \$350,000 for **Learning Resources** for K-6 reading
- \$2 million to support **Professional Learning** for teachers
- \$40,000 for **teacher bursaries** (K-6) to upgrade math pedagogy
- \$350,000 to support the introduction of **Social Emotional Learning** curriculum
- \$200,000 for **School Library Resources**
- 4 additional teaching units for ESL

Also announced in the budget:

- No change to the current teacher allocation model/class size caps
- No change to the allocation formula for Instructional Resources Teachers (IRT)
- Reinstatement of \$300,000 in the Student Assistant budget
- A reduction of 49 teaching units due to the decline in student enrolment and application of the current allocation model. However, with the increases for LRT, Reading Specialists, and ESL, the net reduction in teaching units is 5 units overall.

While the NLTA welcomes the resources committed for Phase 2 of the Education Action Plan, **we had also advocated for:**

- Measures to address issues around class size and composition
- Increases to the administrative allocation
- Additional supports to enable students with special needs and mental health issues to access the same opportunities as their peers, including increases to allocations for guidance counsellors, educational psychologists and speech language pathologists.