

Provincial Budget 2026

Education Funding April 2026

On Wednesday, April 29, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador delivered Budget 2026.

Education funding announced is as follows:

- \$625 million for educators, teaching and learning assistants, a \$29 million increase to add 94 teachers and 20 teaching and learning assistants.
- \$20 million this year to provide education supports to Indigenous children.
- \$1 million to place social workers in schools as part of a provincial expansion to the Doorways Program to support the mental health of students.
- \$500,000 is being provided for new automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and for additional first aid training for educational staff.

Budget 2026 also includes funding for the following school infrastructure initiatives:

- \$10.8 million to advance the new high school in Paradise.
- \$4 million allocated in 2026–27 to the expansion of École Boréale in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Pasadena Elementary, and St. Teresa's in John's.
- \$300,000 for planning for the replacement of Cabot Academy in Western Bay.
- Completion of a needs assessment for schools including Frank Roberts Junior High School in Conception Bay South.

The NLTA acknowledges the education-related investments announced in the Provincial Budget and is encouraged to see additional teachers and TLAs added to the system. However, significant gaps remain – particularly in addressing teacher and specialist retention and recruitment, overall system resourcing and increasingly complex student needs. We continue to advocate for:

- Reduction in class size caps and improved allocations to address increasingly complex class compositions;
- Additional supports to enable students with exceptionalities, mental health challenges, language barriers and trauma to access the same opportunities as their peers, including increases to allocations for school counsellors, instructional resource teachers, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, and other specialized supports;
- Increased allocations for school administration; and,
- Meaningful and targeted action to address the retention and recruitment of certified teachers in all regions of province and professional areas.