

BCTF Research Report

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SECTION V
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BC international student revenue grows again

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International Student Tuition in BC Public Schools Increased in 2010–11

After two years of decline, the tuition from international students increased in 2010–11 and reached more than \$129 million. The revenue from international students has more than doubled in a decade, from \$55.5 million in 2001–02. This revenue is the most significant source of funding for K–12 education in BC outside of direct grants from the provincial government.

While not all the resources from this tuition go directly into education services, school districts reported in 2010–11 that a total of 381 teaching positions exist as a result of international students being in the school system.¹ The number of international students in grades K–12 in 2010–11 was reported at 8,812.²

A look at the chart on tuition-fee revenue³ over the decade shows that it has essentially reached a plateau, in aggregate for the province as a whole. However, it varies from district to district, with some districts up and others down. The one year of an aggregate drop in revenue came after the economic downturn, although having a large number of students from China with its continued growth during a recession elsewhere probably caused less of a reduction than if the core of the international students had come from some other country. This does demonstrate, though, how much this form of funding of BC public education is subject to events like the SARS epidemic, political upheaval, or economic downturn.

¹ See Appendix 1. *Staff by Year and Program Code: Off-Shore Students, 2010–2011*

² See Appendix 2. *Student Statistics—2010–2011 Province—Public and Independent Schools Combined*

³ See Appendix 3. *BC off-shore tuition-fee revenue, 2010–11*

International student tuition is a source of inequity in BC education

International tuition is a source of significant inequities among school districts. Some boards in the Metro Vancouver and South Island areas receive significant supplements from international students, while many small and rural areas receive none.⁴

The West Vancouver school district took in nearly \$8 million in tuition, adding more than 15% to the district budget over the funding provided by the BC government. This is a district that already has the advantage of a population with among the highest incomes in Canada. This extra funding allows the district to offer more opportunities than can be offered anywhere else in the BC public school system.

Other districts with significant extra funding from international student tuition include Coquitlam with more than \$15 million, Vancouver with more than \$13 million, Burnaby about \$9.5 million, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows nearly \$9 million, and North Vancouver nearly \$8 million. On Vancouver Island, Greater Victoria brought in nearly \$9 million.

Richmond had the largest year-over-year increase of more than \$2 million to bring them up to more than \$6 million. Of the smaller districts, the Gulf Islands and Qualicum were each able to add about 4% to their budgets over the amount provided by government grants.

Selling education as a commodity

In the 2011 Throne Speech, the government indicated that education is a part of the economic plan for BC. It said:

We will act to make British Columbia a destination of choice for international students that capitalizes on the strengths in our schools, colleges, universities and institutions.

The government set up a separate agency, the BC Council for International Education, to promote the marketing of BC education.

Education Minister Abbott left the legislature on March 15, 2012, after Bill 22 was passed, to join a flight to China as a salesman for BC education. There he, along with some superintendents and other education officials, promoted BC schools for Chinese students, offering education services for a fee.

In addition to attracting more students to come to BC, two other types of programs are seen as providing funding through commercial educational activity, run by school districts as businesses to bring in revenue.

⁴ See Appendix 3. *BC off-shore tuition-fee revenue, 2010–2011* for data which follows.

Selling BC education through BC schools overseas

The minister of education went to China to promote schools that use the BC curriculum and employ teachers with a BC teaching certificate. These are, in effect, private schools. Some operate through contracts with agents who have no links to the public school system. Others are run by School District Business Companies, which are essentially private businesses run by a few public school districts in BC.

These schools do not produce a significant economic return to the BC school system. They do, however, provide employment for an estimated 200 teachers with BC certificates whose opportunities in BC are limited because the universities are graduating more teachers than can be absorbed into the system due to staffing cuts in public schools during the last decade. These schools promise their students and families easy access to BC universities and colleges because the overseas students receive a BC Dogwood diploma.

The Chinese government seems to have objectives that are more cultural than economic, according to the description of the purpose of the Superintendent junket that went to China with the minister of education. The BC Council for International Education website says:

The Ministry of Education is in support of greater K-12 engagement with China and HANBAN⁵ is keen to further support the building of relationships with BC districts as well as with BC's Ministry of Education in order to encourage the growth of Mandarin Language instruction in BC, the creation of Confucius Classrooms across the province as well as a new Confucius Institute. Fundamental to these outcomes is the creation of bilateral school-to-school and district-to-district partnerships that will be strongly encouraged on the mission and that will lead to a greater level of shared learning and cooperation across the education enterprise.⁶

One of the deliverables of the Superintendent mission was “speed dating with potential partner schools and districts.”⁷

Selling BC education through Distributed Learning

A current initiative aims at expanding the international market further by offering courses toward BC secondary graduation without the student needing to come to British Columbia. Distributed Learning (DL) has been a rapidly-expanding part of the school system in BC. The plan is to combine the expanding world of online education with getting more revenue through tuition for the online courses.

The rationale for a student taking a BC DL program is similar to one reason international students come to BC—getting a BC-high-school graduation certificate. While students who physically come to BC will develop their facility with English because of the immersion in English, a student taking a course online will not have that immersion experience.

⁵ HANBAN is the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language

⁶ BC Council for International Education. http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/china_mission

⁷ BC Council for International Education. http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/china_mission

Several school districts have been developing DL international programs, usually through a School District Business Company. A number of problematic areas should be monitored. One is the development of further inequities among BC school districts when some have the capacity to earn extra funding over the cost of actually providing the programs, while others do not.

Other issues relate to concerns with Distributed Learning in general—who owns the material developed by the teacher, and can it be sold externally without compensation to the developer? Also, the nature of the employment of teachers is unclear. Are the teachers who teach the courses employees of the school district if they are working for the School District Business Company? Finally, the question regarding who actually does the work submitted in a DL course arises frequently in all DL programs, and this issue may be accentuated in international programs.

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Staff by Year and Program Code: Off-Shore Students, 2010/2011

(Source: Form 1530)

SD	School District	School Year	Program Code	FTE Admin Off	FTE Teachers	FTE Other Prof	FTE Educ	FTE Clerical	FTE Other	FTE Pca Trust
005	Southeast Kootenay	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	0.24	3.10	1.00	-	-	-
006	Rocky Mountain	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	1.00	0.29	-	-	-
008	Kootenay Lake	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	-	-	-	0.60	-	-
010	Arrow Lakes	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
019	Revelstoke	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
020	Kootenay-Columbia	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
022	Vernon	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	-	-	-	2.60	-	-
023	Central Okanagan	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
027	Cariboo-Chilcotin	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
028	Quesnel	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	0.43	-	-	-	-	-	-
033	Chilliwack	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	0.82	-	-	-	-	-
034	Abbotsford	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	1.80	6.36	2.00	-	-
035	Langley	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	2.84	2.00	4.06	3.00	-	-
036	Surrey	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	3.24	34.30	2.80	1.68	13.61	-	-
037	Delta	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.11	5.65	-	1.17	3.50	-	-
038	Richmond	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	3.71	-	2.00	-	3.00	-	-
039	Vancouver	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	59.72	3.50	1.70	5.25	-	-
040	New Westminster	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	4.00	-	1.00	-	-
041	Burnaby	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	0.40	38.65	2.00	-	3.00	-	-
042	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	0.20	29.93	3.00	-	4.30	-	-
043	Coquitlam	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	75.28	3.00	2.00	7.00	-	-
044	North Vancouver	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	29.60	1.00	-	2.00	-	-
045	West Vancouver	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	3.28	34.97	1.30	-	3.29	-	-
046	Sunshine Coast	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
047	Powell River	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	1.00	-	-	-	-	-
048	Howe Sound	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	0.14	1.00	-	0.91	-	-
049	Central Coast	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
050	Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
051	Boundary	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
052	Prince Rupert	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
053	Okanagan Similkameen	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
054	Bulkley Valley	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
057	Prince George	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	0.10	1.00	-	-	0.23	-	-
058	Nicola-Similkameen	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
059	Peace River South	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
060	Peace River North	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
061	Greater Victoria	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	37.60	5.65	2.84	7.49	-	-
062	Sooke	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	4.38	1.00	-	1.00	-	-
063	Saanich	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	0.25	8.75	-	-	3.07	-	-
064	Gulf Islands	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	0.14	2.14	2.00	-	0.34	-	-
067	Okanagan Skaha	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	1.80	-	-	-	-	-
068	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.13	1.57	2.00	-	1.63	-	-
069	Qualicum	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	1.41	0.70	-	1.00	-	-
070	Alberni	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
071	Comox Valley	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	5.73	1.00	-	1.90	-	-
072	Campbell River	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	0.90	-	-	-	-	-
073	Kamloops/Thompson	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
074	Gold Trail	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
075	Mission	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	-	-	-	3.00	-	-
078	Fraser-Cascade	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
079	Cowichan Valley	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	1.00	3.14	1.00	-	0.60	-	-
081	Fort Nelson	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
082	Coast Mountains	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
083	North Okanagan-Shuswap	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
084	Vancouver Island West	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
085	Vancouver Island North	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
087	Stikine	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
091	Nechako Lakes	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
092	Nisga'a	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
093	Conseil scolaire francophone	2010/2011	1.62 - Off-shore Students	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals				22.99	381.56	44.85	21.09	75.32	-	-

Table prepared by BCTF Research

Data source prepared by: Information Department, BC Ministry of Education

Date: June 22, 2010

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Student Statistics - 2010/11

Province - Public and Independent Schools Combined

Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) by Grade - Secondary

	School Year	Grade						SU*	GA*	Sec Total	All K-12 Grades*
		8	9	10	11	12					
Non-Residents											
All Schools	2006/07	924.6	1011.9	1490.3	2658.5	1582.9	80.1	-	7748.3	11448.3	
	2007/08	851.3	1044.4	1591.5	2927.9	1771.0	125.3	-	8311.4	11958.9	
	2008/09	703.3	959.0	1725.8	3110.2	1770.0	114.6	4.0	8386.9	11659.4	
	2009/10	547.0	777.8	1667.7	3033.0	1947.8	510.6	3.5	8487.3	10936.3	
	2010/11	506.0	729.3	1799.8	3286.9	2124.5	631.3	7.0	9084.8	11248.8	
All Public Schools	2006/07	701.6	732.6	1088.2	2183.0	1126.1	25.4	-	5856.9	8805.4	
	2007/08	648.6	763.1	1166.0	2471.8	1323.4	88.4	-	6461.3	9438.8	
	2008/09	528.5	670.1	1202.0	2498.1	1349.7	91.7	3.4	6343.4	9021.9	
	2009/10	400.0	541.1	1156.0	2433.5	1480.2	479.7	2.3	6492.7	8492.2	
	2010/11	371.0	499.3	1280.0	2666.9	1629.0	609.3	3.1	7058.5	8812.0	
All Independent Schools	2006/07	223.0	279.3	402.1	475.5	456.8	54.8	-	1891.4	2642.9	
	2007/08	202.6	281.3	425.5	456.1	447.6	36.9	-	1850.1	2520.1	
	2008/09	174.8	288.9	523.8	612.1	420.3	22.9	0.6	2043.4	2637.4	
	2009/10	147.0	236.6	511.7	599.5	467.6	30.9	1.3	1994.6	2444.1	
	2010/11	135.0	230.0	519.8	620.1	495.6	22.0	3.9	2026.3	2436.8	

*SU = Secondary Ungraded

GA = Graduated Adult

The total for all K-12 grades includes Elementary Ungraded (EU), Secondary Ungraded (SU), and Graduated Adult (GA).

The '2008/09 funded FTE calculation was modified after the FTE data was received for reporting.

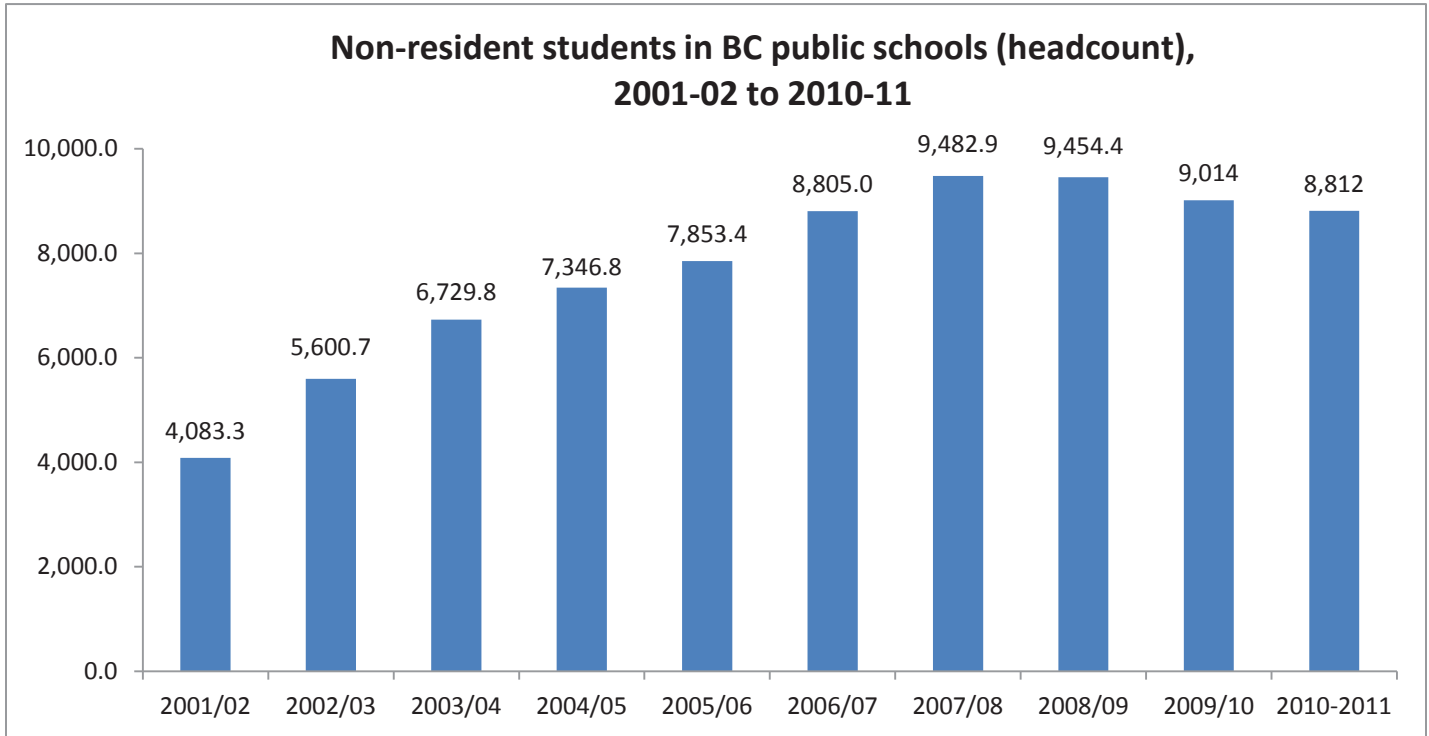
The modifications to the calculation were applied to the '2009/10 school year and forward.

BC off-shore tuition-fee revenue, 2010-11

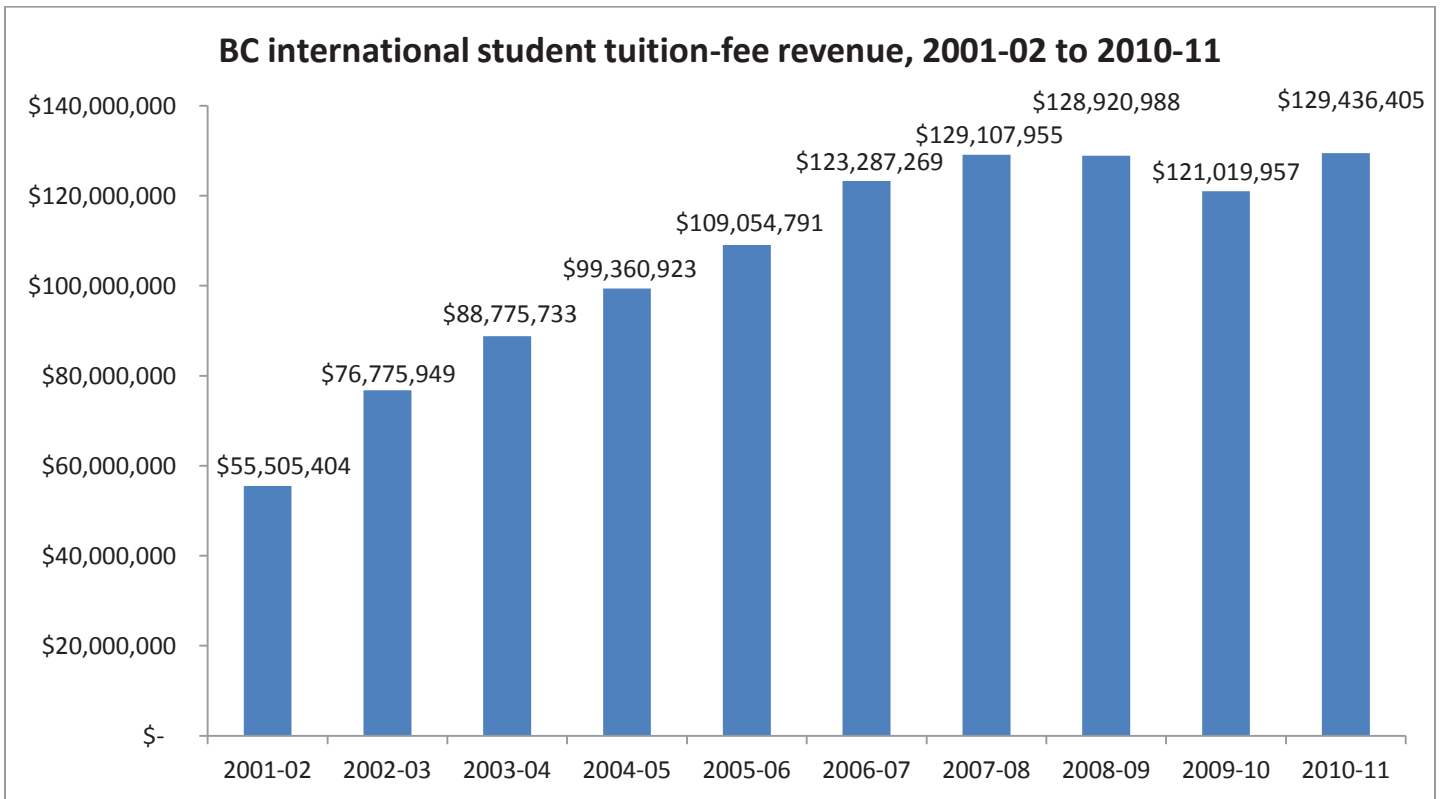
Source: Schedule A2, District Audited Financial Statements

#	District Name	Off-shore tuition-fee revenue 2010-11	2009-10 to 2010-11 incr (decr)	Recalculated District Operating Grants 2010-2011 *	Off-shore tuition-fee revenue as percentage of Recalc. Op Grant	Total revenue from offshore tuition fees, 2001-11	Rank, based on revenue, 2001-11
5	Southeast Kootenay	\$1,361,164	\$247,891	\$49,940,064	2.73%	\$5,501,565	27
6	Rocky Mountain	\$1,482,885	\$826,552	\$31,418,591	4.72%	\$7,040,350	23
8	Kootenay Lake	\$1,290,693	\$479,265	\$50,128,560	2.57%	\$7,931,292	22
10	Arrow Lakes	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$7,310,068	0.12%	\$89,940	49
19	Revelstoke	\$9,500	(\$238)	\$9,997,205	0.10%	\$277,945	44
20	Kootenay-Columbia	\$200,988	(\$300)	\$36,219,421	0.55%	\$1,017,534	39
22	Vernon	\$4,284,770	\$935,650	\$71,300,160	6.01%	\$17,909,690	15
23	Central Okanagan	\$1,464,107	\$374,033	\$171,785,420	0.85%	\$5,248,192	28
27	Cariboo-Chilcotin	\$54,155	\$33,454	\$53,779,611	0.10%	\$162,665	47
28	Quesnel	\$421,730	(\$180,761)	\$35,567,174	1.19%	\$2,216,853	34
33	Chilliwack	\$1,158,249	\$829,885	\$104,939,742	1.10%	\$3,178,101	32
34	Abbotsford	\$3,760,481	\$15,830	\$150,941,534	2.49%	\$38,159,665	10
35	Langley	\$6,007,178	(\$789,226)	\$147,207,248	4.08%	\$69,294,991	5
36	Surrey	\$8,007,341	(\$500,190)	\$538,564,081	1.49%	\$88,669,301	3
37	Delta	\$3,374,775	\$456,467	\$127,881,087	2.64%	\$29,727,126	12
38	Richmond	\$6,285,926	\$2,227,496	\$174,984,835	3.59%	\$35,574,653	9
39	Vancouver	\$13,497,843	\$631,139	\$452,097,508	2.99%	\$116,573,839	2
40	New Westminster	\$2,271,783	\$462,306	\$52,859,542	4.30%	\$25,258,892	13
41	Burnaby	\$9,508,931	\$851,855	\$190,553,280	4.99%	\$54,453,807	9
42	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	\$8,859,462	\$312,057	\$113,722,259	7.79%	\$60,260,945	8
43	Coquitlam	\$15,370,648	\$896,175	\$236,728,706	6.49%	\$145,060,826	1
44	North Vancouver	\$7,835,473	\$115,423	\$124,591,306	6.29%	\$65,521,063	6
45	West Vancouver	\$7,950,427	(\$9,980)	\$51,491,874	15.44%	\$78,161,229	4
46	Sunshine Coast	\$96,241	\$23,256	\$33,643,173	0.29%	\$1,343,239	37
47	Powell River	\$227,881	(\$3,122)	\$21,589,988	1.06%	\$3,195,687	31
48	Sea to Sky	\$1,003,779	\$109,331	\$36,203,475	2.77%	\$14,611,037	17
49	Central Coast	\$0	\$0	\$4,926,819	0.00%	\$0	56
50	Haida Gwai'i/Queen Charlotte	\$0	\$0	\$9,735,999	0.00%	\$0	57
51	Boundary	\$0	(\$15,797)	\$15,787,921	0.00%	\$135,043	48
52	Prince Rupert	\$12,000	(\$12,000)	\$25,588,903	0.05%	\$46,391	53
53	Okanagan Similkameen	\$0	\$0	\$23,875,089	0.00%	\$618,923	40
54	Bulkley Valley	\$0	(\$8,000)	\$23,270,655	0.00%	\$32,875	54
57	Prince George	\$99,900	(\$83,600)	\$121,176,590	0.08%	\$2,313,193	33
58	Nicola-Similkameen	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$24,968,799	0.02%	\$66,755	50
59	Peace River South	\$133,180	\$4,620	\$42,569,863	0.31%	\$2,103,184	35
60	Peace River North	\$190,857	(\$55,705)	\$53,240,207	0.36%	\$1,171,428	38
61	Greater Victoria	\$8,732,967	\$465,178	\$151,162,237	5.78%	\$64,745,994	7
62	Sooke	\$1,984,779	(\$207,860)	\$74,468,044	2.67%	\$16,643,697	16
63	Saanich	\$2,397,878	\$180,229	\$64,181,929	3.74%	\$13,280,557	19
64	Gulf Islands	\$617,545	\$17,617	\$16,024,201	3.85%	\$5,065,150	26
67	Okanagan Skaha	\$266,454	(\$93,740)	\$55,115,233	0.48%	\$3,509,999	29
68	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	\$2,282,064	(\$11,794)	\$118,411,575	1.93%	\$21,741,507	14
69	Qualicum	\$1,811,170	\$66,706	\$40,455,704	4.48%	\$14,276,377	18
70	Alberni	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$37,999,983	0.00%	\$380,329	41
71	Comox Valley	\$1,427,759	\$85,288	\$72,235,769	1.98%	\$6,909,562	24
72	Campbell River	\$352,511	\$14,838	\$49,483,587	0.71%	\$3,316,420	30
73	Kamloops Thompson	\$1,114,422	(\$495,056)	\$123,106,155	0.91%	\$6,624,753	25
74	Gold Trail	\$0	\$0	\$20,401,734	0.00%	\$242,029	45
75	Mission	\$1,217,101	\$86,730	\$53,171,093	2.29%	\$11,283,251	20
78	Fraser-Cascade	\$46,209	(\$60,874)	\$19,459,823	0.24%	\$1,350,479	36
79	Cowichan Valley	\$857,100	\$196,164	\$70,788,806	1.21%	\$7,948,195	21
81	Fort Nelson	\$22,000	\$0	\$9,560,407	0.23%	\$66,020	51
82	Coast Mountains	\$6,000	(\$6,630)	\$51,618,731	0.01%	\$208,110	46
83	North Okanagan-Shuswap	\$44,249	\$29,829	\$62,477,565	0.07%	\$336,603	42
84	Vancouver Island West	\$0	\$0	\$6,877,711	0.00%	\$10,500	55
85	Vancouver Island North	\$0	\$0	\$18,510,699	0.00%	\$64,800	52
87	Stikine	\$0	\$0	\$5,662,261	0.00%	\$0	58
91	Nechako Lakes	\$17,600	(\$40,193)	\$51,271,874	0.03%	\$312,823	43
92	Nisga'a	\$0	\$0	\$7,131,673	0.00%	\$0	59
93	Francophone Education Authority	\$0	\$0	\$58,558,397	0.00%	\$0	60
	Totals	\$129,436,405	\$8,416,448	\$4,658,721,948	2.78%	\$1,061,245,374	

*Table 1 2010/11 Recalculated Operating Grants. Accessed at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/k12funding/funding/10-11/recalculation/>
Prepared for BCTF Research, February 2012



Source Appendix 2. Total Full-time equivalent (FTE) by Grade—Secondary. *Student Statistics—2011/12 Province—Public and Independent Schools Combined*, p. 26



Source Appendix 3. *BC off-shore tuition-fee revenue, 2010-11*