

BCTF Research Report

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International students in BC, 2011–12

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School boards earn more international student fee revenue in 2011–12—but inequality grows

Tuition revenue from overseas students increased by over \$9 million dollars in 2011–12 over the previous year. It reached a record amount of \$138,848,821.

The increased revenue reflects an increase of nearly 500 international students, reaching a total of 9,281.1 (FTE).

However, the patterns of inequality continue to be reinforced, because most of the students study in Metro Vancouver, the Okanagan, and Vancouver Island, and those are the areas which experienced increased revenue. Smaller districts in the Interior and the North tend to get very few international students. They not only lose out on revenues, but also the diversity that international students can bring to a school.

Coquitlam continued to claim the most revenue of any district, although it dropped nearly a half million to \$14.9 million. Burnaby and Richmond were the big gainers, with each bringing in about \$2 million more than the previous year. North Vancouver dropped by \$.6 million, while neighbouring West Vancouver gained by nearly that amount.

Other districts gaining revenue included Vernon and Central Okanagan; Delta, Vancouver and New Westminster in Metro; and Greater Victoria, Saanich, Comox Valley, Nanaimo-Ladysmith and the Cowichan Valley on the Island.

How do school districts use the tuition revenue from international students?

School districts charge more in tuition for each international student than they get from the province for each Canadian student. Each board decides how the funding will be used; no provincial guidelines exist.

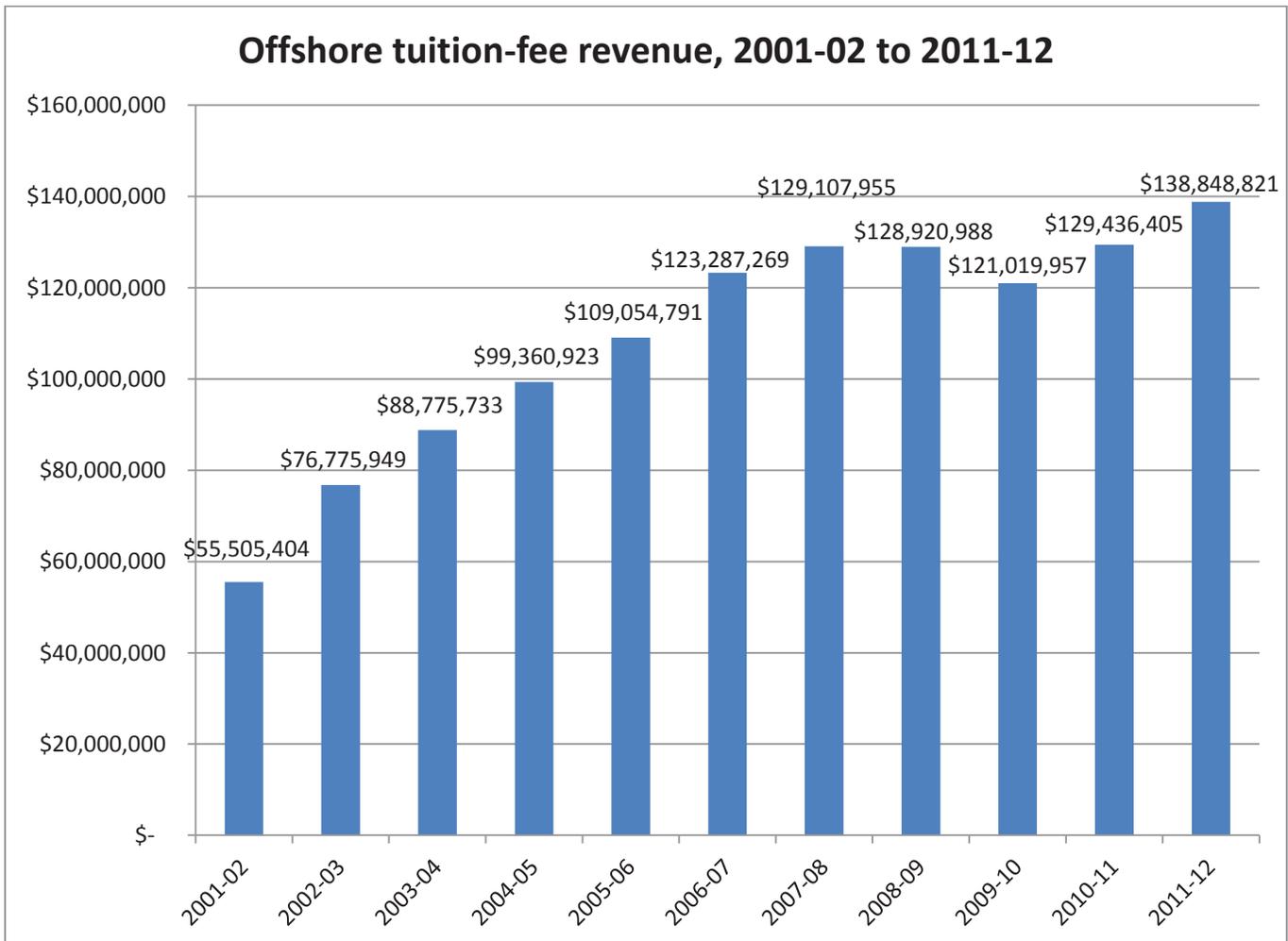
How the funds are used varies substantially from district to district, and even within districts. Some schools get a significant portion of the extra revenue to support school activities. Some classrooms get extra resources if there is an international student in the class. In other cases, the district uses all or nearly all the amounts on a district basis. Reports from teachers indicate that little specialized ESL is assigned to international students.

No standard for how the funds should be expended or reported exists. Requiring a financial report from districts would be a positive step in making the impact of international students more transparent.

Boards generally do not report how much they are paying to agents in other countries to recruit students, or on the recruitment costs when BC administrators are sent overseas.

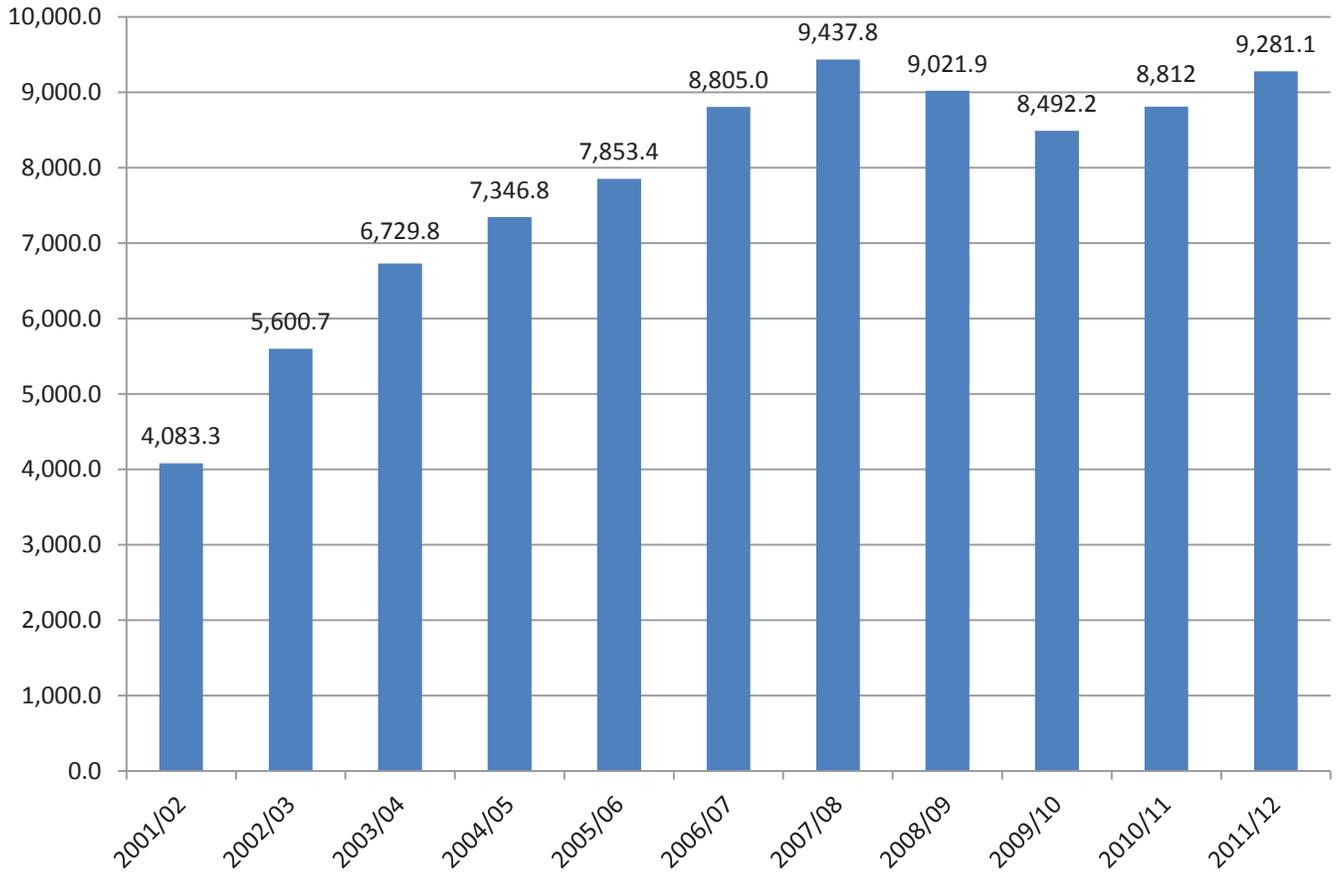
Recruitment agents may well exaggerate the benefits when trying to sell overseas parents on particular districts, creating problems for the school district and teachers in not being able to meet expectations that they don't even know about. A standard description of programs and contracts for agents might reduce some problems of overpromising what students are likely to achieve.

Districts are required to identify the number of teachers and other staff employed as a result of the international programs when they report on staffing each September 30. In September 2011, for the year covered in this report, the number of teachers reported by boards as staff for international students was 408.01 FTE (unpublished ministry Form 1530 data). This would be an estimate only, since very few teachers have only international students—most international students are just added to already-existing classes. However, the number of teachers reported does indicate how much boards think they are spending on teaching staff of the total they receive from the international student revenue.



Source: Statement A2, District Audited Financial Statements

International student FTE enrolment, 2001-02 to 2011-12



Source: Ministry of Education student enrolment data

BC offshore tuition fee revenue, 2011–12

Source: Schedule A2, District Audited Financial Statements

SD #	District Name	2010–11	2011–12
5	Southeast Kootenay	\$1,361,164	\$1,376,589
6	Rocky Mountain	\$1,482,885	\$1,392,733
8	Kootenay Lake	\$1,290,693	\$1,335,453
10	Arrow Lakes	\$9,000	\$0
19	Revelstoke	\$9,500	\$53,200
20	Kootenay-Columbia	\$200,988	\$76,520
22	Vernon	\$4,284,770	\$4,708,307
23	Central Okanagan	\$1,464,107	\$2,472,931
27	Cariboo-Chilcotin	\$54,155	\$27,000
28	Quesnel	\$421,730	\$476,745
33	Chilliwack	\$1,158,249	\$1,000,489
34	Abbotsford	\$3,760,481	\$3,559,139
35	Langley	\$6,007,178	\$6,233,926
36	Surrey	\$8,007,341	\$8,085,587
37	Delta	\$3,374,775	\$4,335,274
38	Richmond	\$6,285,926	\$8,552,429
39	Vancouver	\$13,497,843	\$14,139,911
40	New Westminster	\$2,271,783	\$2,697,118
41	Burnaby	\$9,508,931	\$11,629,577
42	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	\$8,859,462	\$8,801,231
43	Coquitlam	\$15,370,648	\$14,909,703
44	North Vancouver	\$7,835,473	\$7,160,305
45	West Vancouver	\$7,950,427	\$8,513,793
46	Sunshine Coast	\$96,241	\$83,750
47	Powell River	\$227,881	\$325,350
48	Howe Sound	\$1,003,779	\$1,208,410
49	Central Coast	\$0	\$0
50	Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte	\$0	\$0
51	Boundary	\$0	\$20,600
52	Prince Rupert	\$12,000	\$24,000
53	Okanagan Similkameen	\$0	\$0
54	Bulkley Valley	\$0	\$0
57	Prince George	\$99,900	\$129,100
58	Nicola-Similkameen	\$6,000	\$0
59	Peace River South	\$133,180	\$88,732
60	Peace River North	\$190,857	\$306,844
61	Greater Victoria	\$8,732,967	\$9,196,129
62	Sooke	\$1,984,779	\$1,924,727
63	Saanich	\$2,397,878	\$3,083,207
64	Gulf Islands	\$617,545	\$540,670
67	Okanagan Skaha	\$266,454	\$276,759
68	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	\$2,282,064	\$2,665,823
69	Qualicum	\$1,811,170	\$1,993,099
70	Alberni	\$1,250	\$187,813
71	Comox Valley	\$1,427,759	\$1,871,085
72	Campbell River	\$352,511	\$213,760
73	Kamloops Thompson	\$1,114,422	\$1,093,401
74	Gold Trail	\$0	\$0
75	Mission	\$1,217,101	\$885,022
78	Fraser-Cascade	\$46,209	\$11,550
79	Cowichan Valley	\$857,100	\$1,130,200
81	Fort Nelson	\$22,000	\$0
82	Coast Mountains	\$6,000	\$6,100
83	North Okanagan-Shuswap	\$44,249	\$37,730
84	Vancouver Island West	\$0	\$0
85	Vancouver Island North	\$0	\$0
87	Stikine	\$0	\$0
91	Nechako Lakes	\$17,600	\$7,000
92	Nisga'a	\$0	\$0
93	Francophone Education Authority	\$0	\$0
Total		\$129,436,405	\$138,848,821