

Cost of Operating an average BC classroom

2009-2010 Ministry of Education data (Public only)

Total provincial grants	4,618,000,000
Total expenditures, including board revenues	4,853,489,728
Total students	580,486
Total: students with special needs	59,691
Number of reported classes	67,473
Average class size	24.8
Average expenditure per student	8,361
Average funding per classroom	207,352

Less overhead costs (17.3% = \$34,130 total)

District admin & district services (3.3%)	-	6,843
School operations & maintenance (11.5%)	-	23,845
Transportation (2.1%)	-	4,354
Other - e.g. Debt servicing (0.4%)	-	829

Balance: Instructional costs (82.7%) **171,480**

Breakdown of instructional costs per average classroom:

Teacher salaries: Classroom & non-enrolling teachers such as teacher librarians (44.9%)	93,101
Salaries: Principal & vice principal (5.3%)	10,990
Salaries: School support staff (3.3%)	6,843
Salaries: Education assistants (6.3%)	13,063
Salaries: Substitutes (2.7%)	5,599
Salaries: Other professionals (0.5%)	1,037
Employee benefits (14.2%)	29,444

School & classroom services & supplies: computers, textbooks, classrooms supplies, copying, share of gym & library materials, cafeterias, etc (5.7%) 11,819

Total: **171,895** (Rounding err. 0.2%)

NOTE: The above represents the average for all classes province-wide, including special education classes with far higher instructional costs per student and classes in small rural schools that have far higher overhead costs. The average cost of a typical urban/suburban class of 25 students, including 2 - 3 integrated students with special needs would be lower than the average above.

Sources:

[2009/10 Provincial Summary of Annual Budgeted Operating Expenditures](#)

[Annual Budget Analysis and revenue & Expenditure Tables Overview:](#)

[2009/10 Overview of Class Size and Composition in BC Public Schools 2009/10](#)

[Student Statistics - 2009/10](#)