



Why do we have education property taxes?

Education property taxes provide support for Alberta's kindergarten to Grade 12 education system, and all Albertans benefit from this quality education system.

Education property taxes provide:

- a stable source of revenue for the kindergarten to Grade 12 education system;
- equitable funding for students no matter where they live; and
- stability in taxation for property owners.

How much does the education tax contribute to education funding?

With Budget 2012, education property taxes will contribute about \$1.98 billion to public and separate school boards. If this money was not collected through property taxes, the provincial government would have to access other revenue sources, such as personal income taxes or corporate taxes. The education tax for municipalities is limited by a 12 per cent cap or a four-year average of property assessments.

The province is requisitioning \$1.98 billion from Albertans in Budget 2012 to assist with the funding for education. It is projected that Alberta's school boards will receive about \$5.52 billion in provincial funding in the 2012/13 school year. Across Alberta, education property taxes will provide about 30 per cent of provincial funding (excluding infrastructure) for the kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in the 2012/13 school year. The remainder of funding comes from general revenues.

Is the province collecting more than last year from Albertans for education?

In fiscal year 2012/13, the government will collect about \$120 million more in education property taxes than in 2011/12. Homeowners may see an increase in their education property tax portion, based on the assessment and local education tax rates.

Where exactly do Albertans' education property tax dollars go?

Education property taxes support public and separate school students. The majority of these funds are for instruction, including teachers' salaries, textbooks, and classroom resources.

Education property taxes are not used to fund capital expenditures such as school construction or renovations; teachers' pensions; government operations; and private, charter or Francophone schools.

How are education property taxes distributed?

Education property taxes are pooled and then distributed to all public and separate school boards on an equal per-student basis. In Alberta, no matter where a student attends school and what type of school the student attends, each is funded at the same funding rate.

For more information, please visit

http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/mc_property_assessment_and_taxation.cfm