



2019-20 Annual Budget
Guiding Principles & Budget Criteria
April 3, 2019

Guiding Principles for the Annual Budget Process

Guiding principles communicate to staff and the school community how you expect the organization to behave around a particular matter or process. They guide day to day decisions and behavior.

- The annual budget complies with the school act, district policy and other legislative requirements. The Board must submit a balanced budget
- The budget process be aligned with and support the Board's strategic direction and goals
- Provide an opportunity for Staff to report out on their budgets
- Provide for communication and consultation with partners/stakeholders
- New initiatives are sustainable for at least three years
- Ongoing costs should not be greater than ongoing revenues
- District contingency reserve is established and maintained in accordance with Board Policy
- Initiatives not within the K-12 mandate are at least cost neutral
- One time revenues and surpluses shall only be used to cover one-time costs
- Encourage efficiencies, sustainability and best practices

Budget Criteria for 2019 2020

Setting decision criteria is best practice when making organizational decisions. Decision criteria in a business setting are those variables or characteristics that are important to the organization making the decision. They should help evaluate the alternatives from which you are choosing. Decision analysis often involves weighting criteria but in this context, staff are recommending setting priority order for criteria. When faced with a budget decision, the priority order should be considered in respect of where funding should be directed first and so on.

The Criteria Statements prioritized for the 2019 2020 Annual Budget are:

1. Maximize success/completion rates for our most vulnerable students
2. Optimize our schools and facilities as safe, healthy and inclusive learning spaces and work places
3. Provide greater supports and opportunities to embed Indigenous culture, teachings and curriculum for all students
4. Provide a variety of pathways for every student to meet his/her desired learning outcomes
5. Provide adequate and sustainable budgets for facilities and technology to sustain necessary infrastructure and space needs
6. Maximize support for student learning in literacy and numeracy
7. Support employee wellness throughout the school system
8. Maximize opportunities for student participation in co-curricular programs
9. Optimize support for students' transitions into our schools, within our schools, and from our schools
10. Optimize our capacity for system-wide leadership support and succession
11. Optimize the use of technology as a tool to support student learning
12. Reduce the impact of our operations on the environment through energy and water efficiencies, greenhouse gas emissions and student learning.