



# By the NUMBERS



## Public School Enrolment in B.C.

The Ministry of Education uses data from the 1701 data collection process to determine official student enrolment numbers in each district and for the province as a whole. Measuring student enrolment allows the Ministry to identify regional and provincial trends and to plan more effectively.

### Student Enrolment is on the Rise

As you can see from Figure 1, enrolment in B.C.'s public school system continues to grow. There are approximately 5,500 more full time equivalent students (FTEs) enrolled in our public schools in 2018/19 than there were in 2017/18, marking the fourth year in a row that enrolment has increased. Since 2014/15, more than 20,000 FTEs have entered B.C.'s public school system.

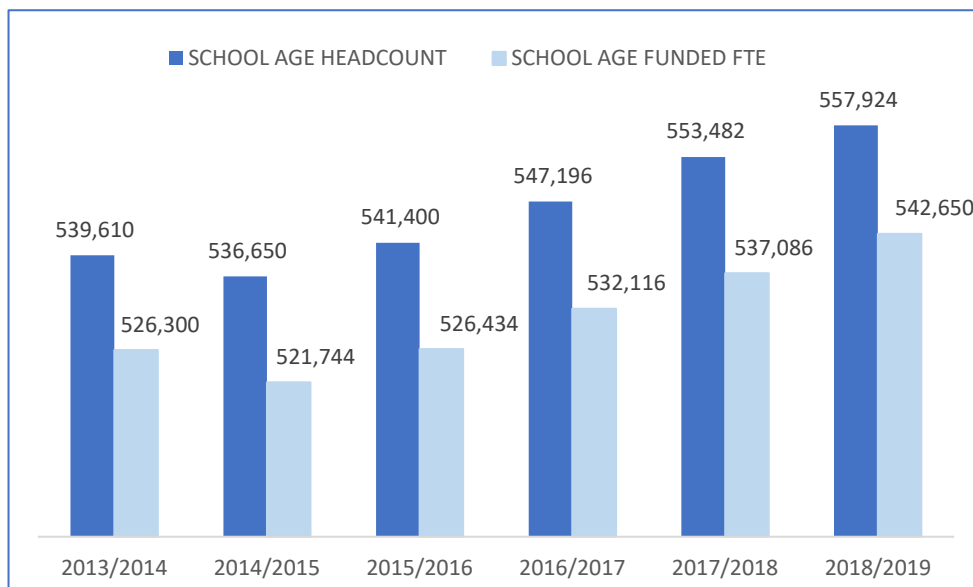


Figure 1: School Age Enrolment Trends, B.C. Public Schools

Note: adult students are not included in this report, so these numbers will not reconcile with reports online that include adult students.

### School Age Student Headcount vs. School Age Funded FTE

The Ministry counts and reports students by headcount and funded full time equivalents (FTEs). Headcount represents the total number of kids in the system. It usually gives a higher number of students relative to the number of funded FTEs, for two reasons: 1) headcounts will include international students, who will generally not be included in funded FTE counts; and 2) headcount will also give a larger count for part time students. For example, a student taking one course would receive .125 funded FTE while counting by headcount the student would still be counted as 1.

## Reasons for Enrolment Growth

The number of students enrolled in B.C. public schools increased from 537,086 in 2017/18 to 542,650 in 2018/19. Four key drivers were responsible for this growth:

1. **Demographics:** 39,974 students graduated from the B.C. public school system during the 2017/18 school year while 39,171 additional students entered in Kindergarten at the start of the 2018/19 school year (net enrolment decrease = 803 students).
2. **Migration:** 5,509 additional students entered the B.C. public school system from other provinces or countries.
3. **Transition:** 1,055 additional students entered the B.C. public school system after all transfers between public and independent schools in the province were accounted for.
4. **Retention:** 197 fewer Full Time Equivalent Students were in the system in 2018/19 vs. 2017/18 as a result of no longer having a full course load.

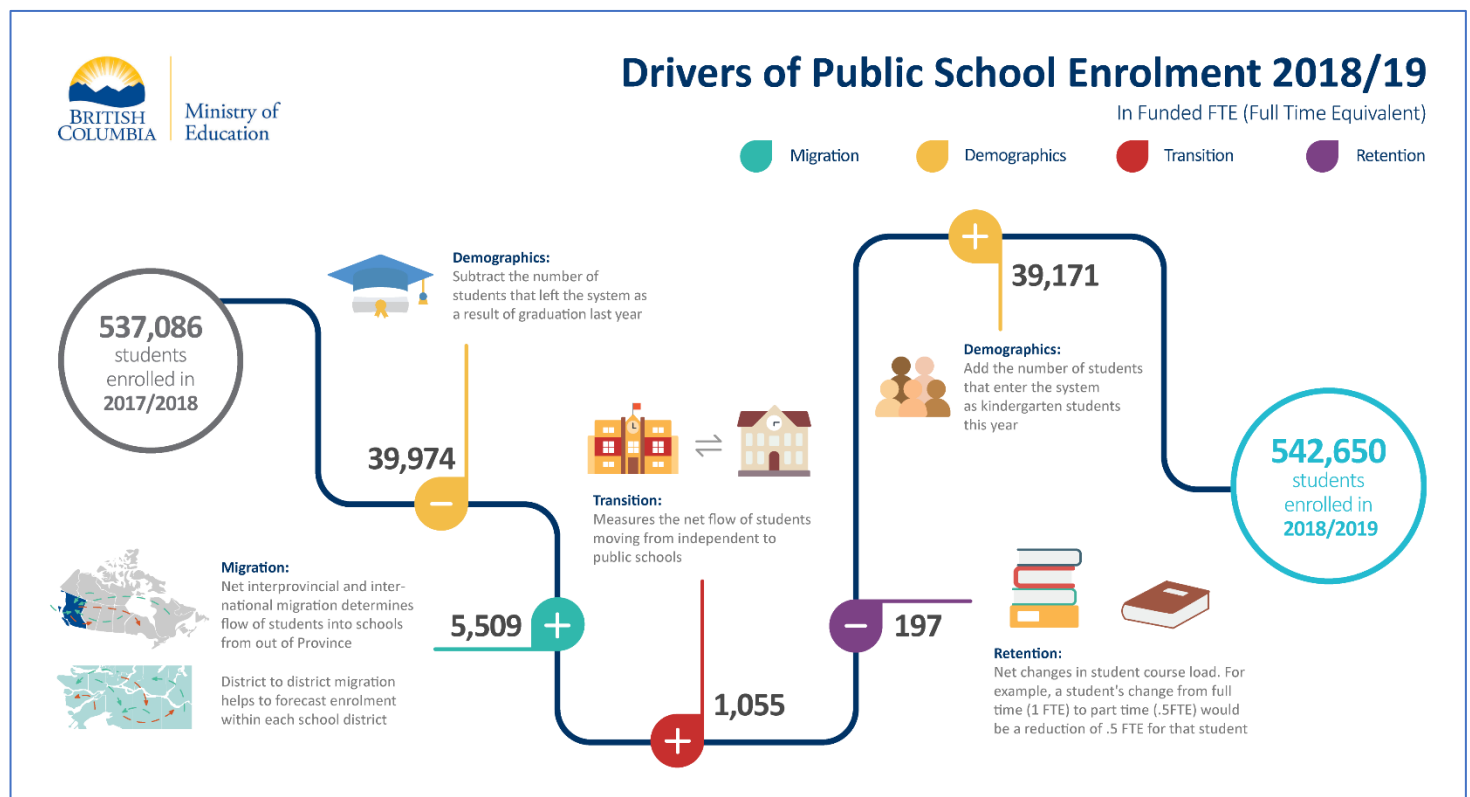


Figure 2: Drivers of Enrolment Growth (School Age Funded FTE)

## Regional Variations

Figure 3 shows the percentage changes in school-age funded FTE enrolments for 2018/19 by school district. As you can see, the rate at which enrolment increased varied from district to district, and in some districts, it actually declined.

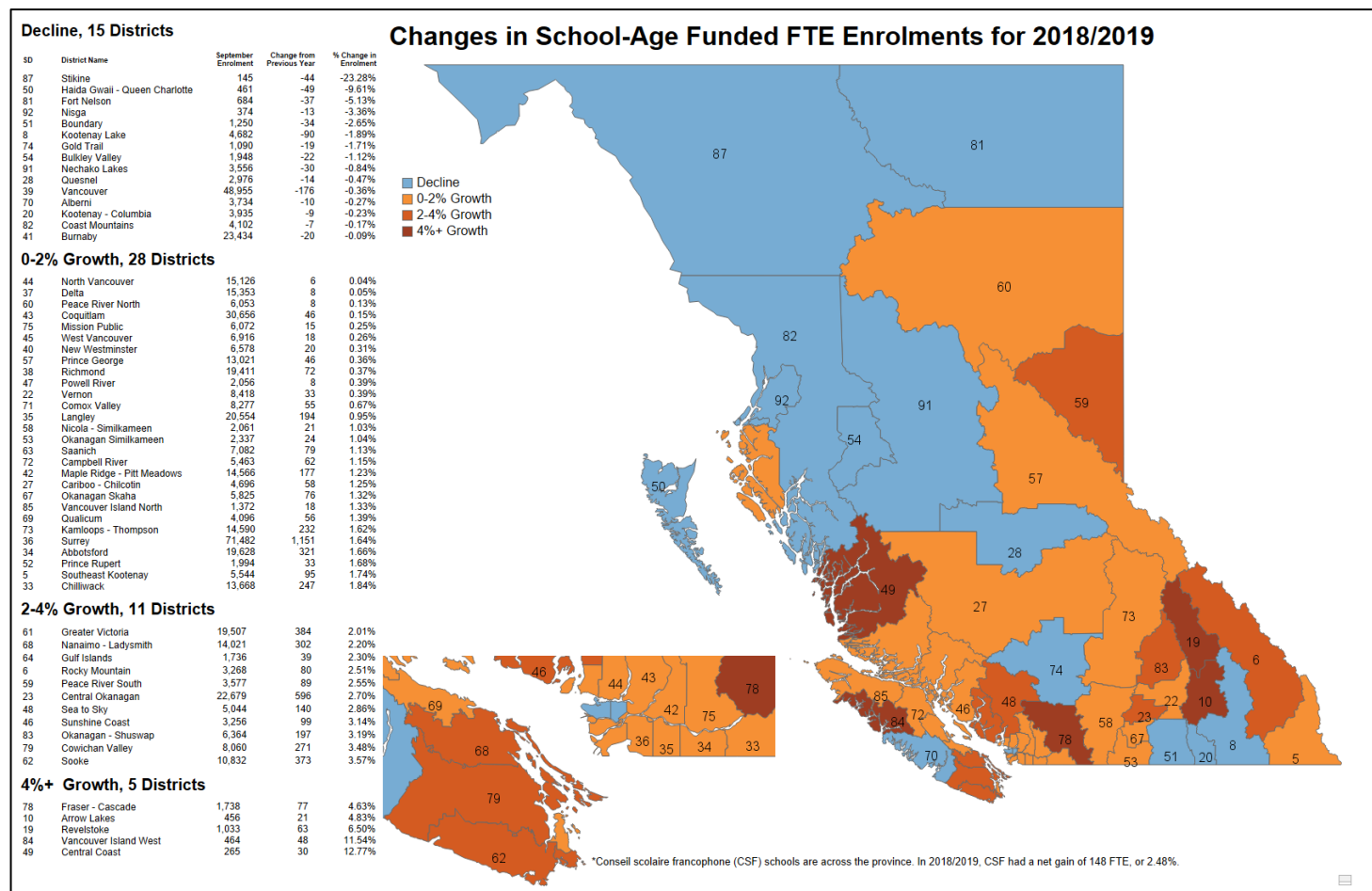


Figure 3: Changes in Growth Across the Province (School Age Funded FTE)

As you can see from Figure 3, the fastest growing districts on a percentage basis (4%+ growth) are ones that had very small student populations to begin with, such as Central Coast, Vancouver Island West and Revelstoke. While the percentage increase in enrolment for these districts in 2018/19 vs. 2017/18 is high and made for a significant change at the district level, the total number of new students this accounts for at the provincial level is quite low. Other districts, such as Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo-Ladysmith, had more modest rates of enrolment growth but contributed significantly more students to the provincial total.

## Percentage of Total Enrolment Growth by School District

Figure 4 shows the percentage of the total B.C. public school enrolment growth in 2018/19 vs. 2017/18 (5,564 FTEs) that was accounted for by each school district. As you can see, 12 districts accounted for 80% of the total enrolment increase for the province. The top three districts were Surrey, Central Okanagan and Greater Victoria.

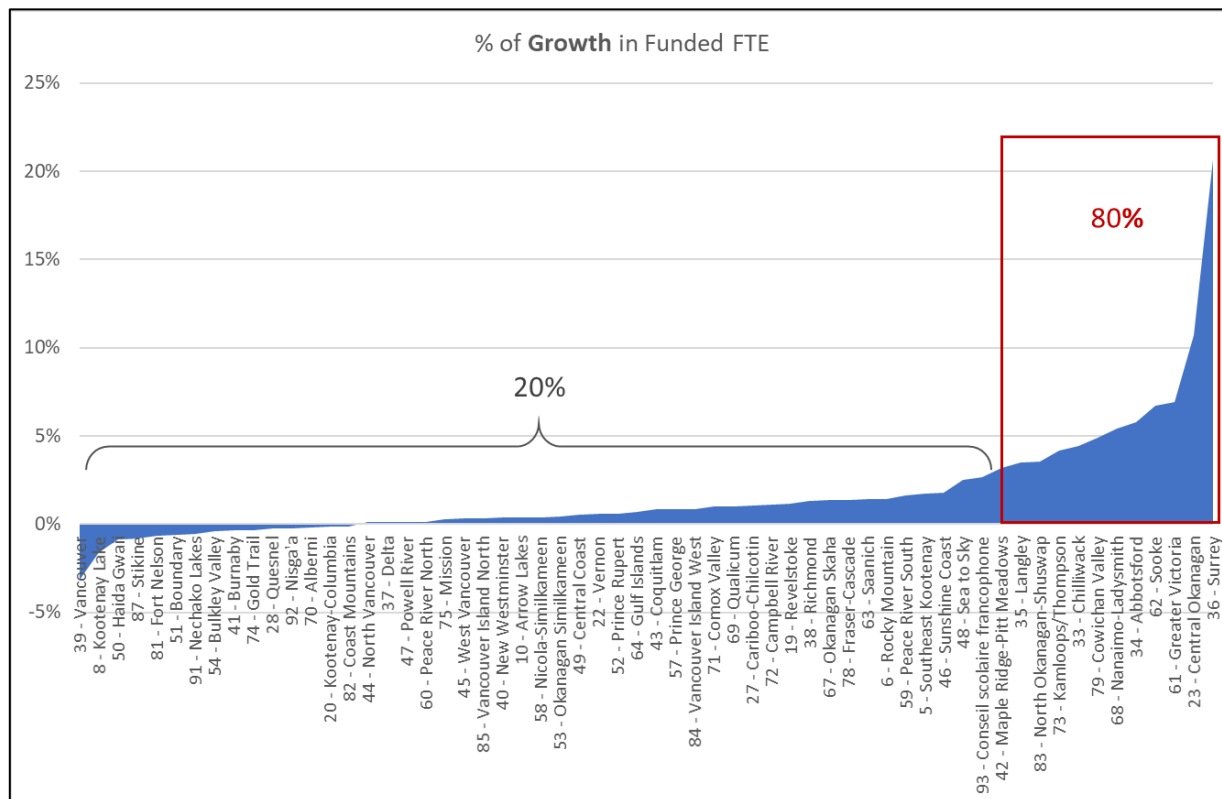


Figure 4: Growth compared across school districts

## Drivers for the Top 3 Growing Districts: Surrey, Okanagan and Victoria

### Surrey School District

A net increase in out of Province migration was the main positive driver of enrolment growth in Surrey, with +1,151 Funded student FTE coming from out of province.

Surrey's main negative enrolment driver was net district (out) migration (-425 Funded FTE). While there were net increases in students from moving to Surrey this school year from Vancouver and Burnaby, there was large net student out migration from Surrey to Langley, Abbotsford, and Delta, and other districts as shown in Figure 5. Other drivers for Surrey include: Demographics (-141 funded FTE), independent to public transition (+362) and Retention (+13 funded FTE).

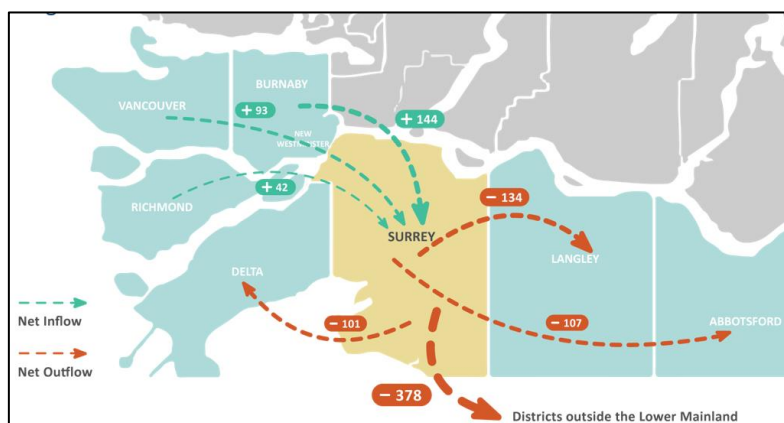


Figure 5: District to District migration trends in the lower mainland

### Central Okanagan School District

The net increase in enrolment (+596 Funded FTE) for Central Okanagan this school year was largely driven from both out of Province migration (+258 funded FTE), as well as net positive migration of students from other districts (+109 funded FTE).

As Figure 6 shows, the largest inflow of students into the Central Okanagan came from both Langley (+46 funded FTE) and Surrey (+44 funded FTE). There was a net outflow of students to more northern school districts of Nechako Lakes (-14 funded FTE) and Prince George (-9 funded FTE).

Other drivers for the Okanagan School District include: demographics (-135 funded FTE), independent to public transition (+2 FTE) and Retention (+362 funded FTE).

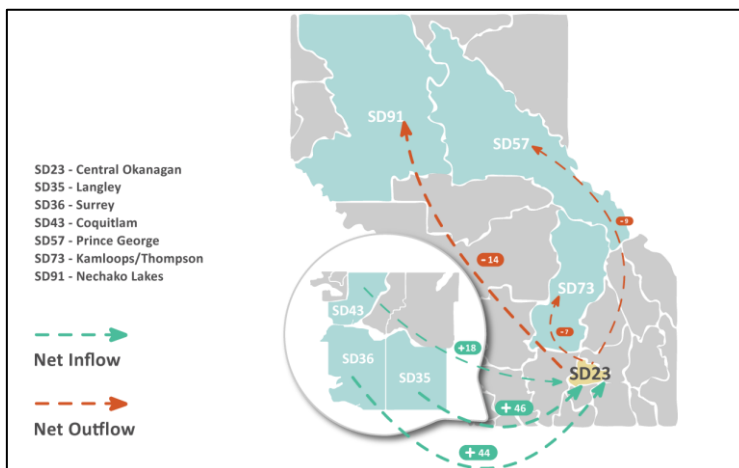


Figure 6: District to district migration trends in the Okanagan

### Greater Victoria School District

The net increase in enrolment of +384 Funded FTE this school year in Victoria was largely driven by migration from out of Province (+197). As shown in Figure 7, Victoria experienced a large negative net district out migration of -178 Funded FTE. Most students left Victoria for Saanich (-202 funded FTE), Sooke (-42 funded FTE), and Comox (-13 funded FTE).

The districts that had net positive inflows to Victoria were Conseil Scolaire Francophone (+28 funded FTE), Vancouver (+24 funded FTE) and Delta (+11 funded FTE).

Other drivers of 2018/2019 school year enrolment growth for the Victoria School District include: demographics (+196 funded FTE), independent to public transition (+35 FTE) and Retention (+135 funded FTE).

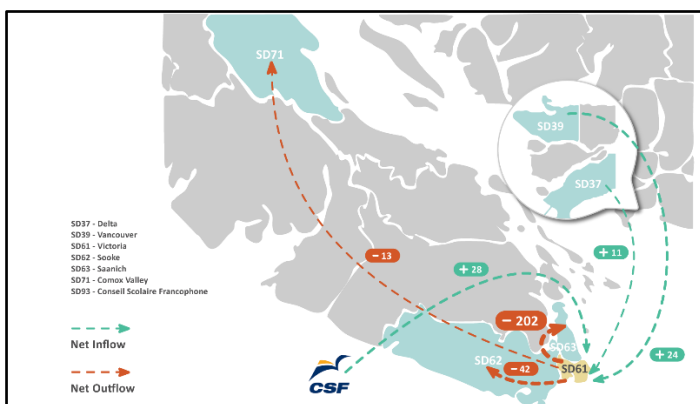


Figure 7: District to district migration trends in the South Island

Please contact [EDUC.AnalysisandReporting@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.AnalysisandReporting@gov.bc.ca) if you have any questions or comments about the 2018/19 enrolment results