



BUDGET & STRATEGIC PLAN

2025-26

Board of Education Meeting
March 11, 2025

2025-26 Preliminary Budget - Calendar

December	10	Board Meeting	Budget Planning – Review objectives, planning principles, & accumulated surplus	✓
January	21	Board Meeting	Review Q2 financial results Revised Provincial Operating Grant 24-25	✓
	31		Final Day for School/Dept. Amended Budget revisions	✓
February	3		Begin preliminary enrolment estimates from schools	✓
	11	Board Meeting	Amended 2024-2025 Budget approval	✓
	14		Submit enrolment estimates to the Ministry	✓
March	11	Board Meeting	2025-2026 Budget: Preliminary Budget estimates (Preliminary planning, enrolment projections)	✓
	13	Public Information Meeting	2025-2026 Public Budget Information Meeting & begin consultation process.	
April	8	Finance & Facilities	Review of Strategic & Operational Plans Review of Budget information Review of school/department allocations	
	11		Final day to adjust enrolment projections	
	15	Board Meeting	Revised strategic plan information. Preliminary Budget estimates including Q3 Financial results and 24-25 forecast	
May	6	Finance & Facilities	Budget Review	
	8	Public Information Meeting	Budget Information Meeting	
	13	Board Meeting	Forecast of current year financial results and preliminary budget estimates	
	30		Finalize school-based staffing estimates, final day for schools/departments to complete spending estimates	
June	17	Board Meeting	Approval of 2025-2026 Budget and updated Strategic Plan	
	27		Deadline for Budget Submission to Ministry	



Budget & Strategic Planning Cycle

September-December

- School & District plan implementation
- Analysis from previous year
- Board reporting commences
- Schools publish results
- Budget analysis
- Financial statements

July

- School budget allocations
- Updated Strategic & School Plans published

June

- Budget & Updated Strategic Plan Approval

January – February

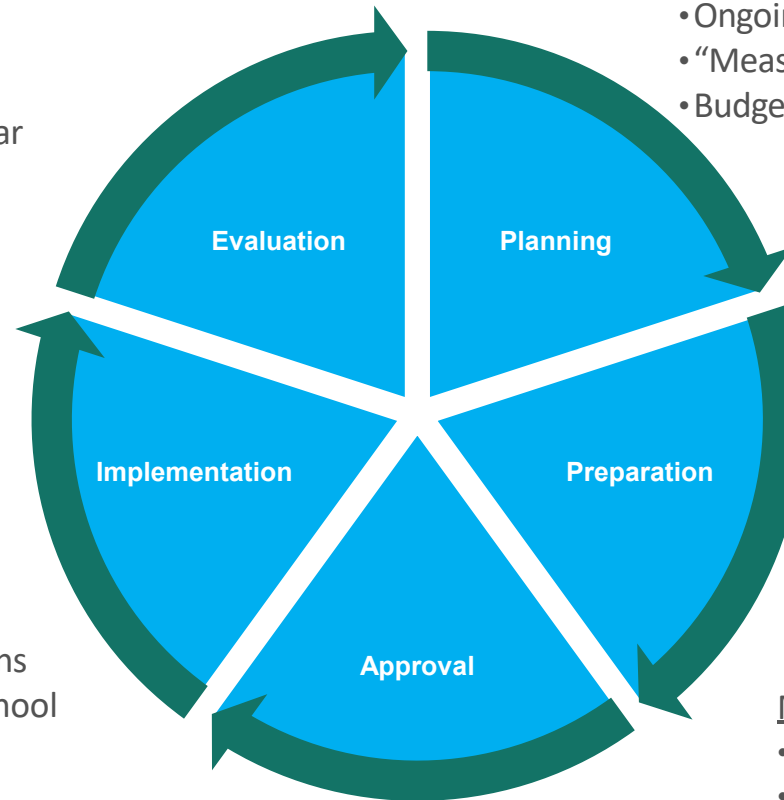
- Ongoing district and school implementation
- “Measuring Up” Report
- Budget estimates & forecasting

February - March

- Environmental assessment updates
- Updated SWOT analysis
- Enrolment projections
- Commence community engagements
- Complete Program/Service Reviews
- Ministry funding announcement

March - May

- Strategic Plan and School Plan reformulation
- Revise and update goals and objectives
- Staffing Estimates
- Operating Budget Estimates



Budget Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

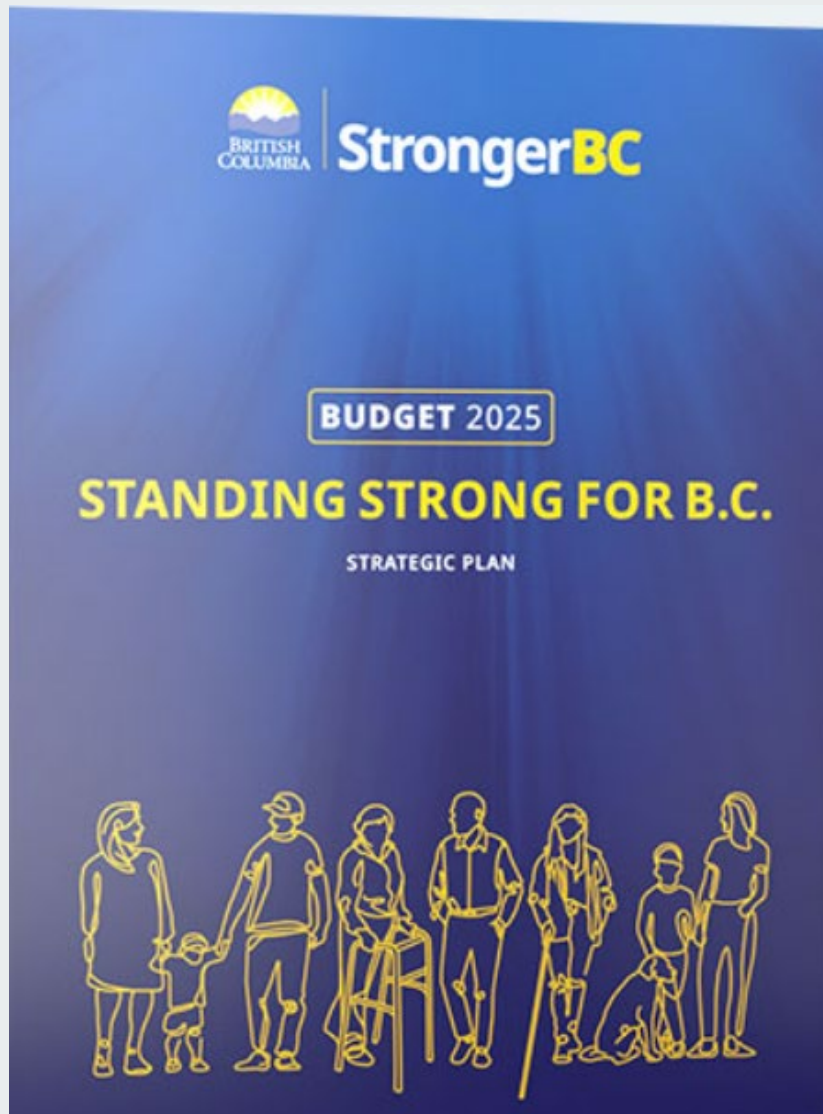
Maximize the allocation of resources to support the goals & priorities in the Strategic Plan.

Commit to building a strong understanding of budget information through ongoing communications.

Maintain a three-year budget plan to ensure funding sources can support program initiatives.

Maintain surplus/reserve balances to respond to emergent needs.

Maintain strong fiscal management policies.



Ministry of Education & Child Care – K-12 2025-26 Budget Highlights

Operating Budget totals \$8.96B

- 2025-26 changes:
 - \$117M Shared Recovery Mandate (COLA)
 - \$112M Classroom Enhancement Fund
 - \$20M Independent Schools funding
 - \$6M First Nations Reciprocal Funding
 - (\$14M) K-12 Literacy Supports (1X PD Funding)
- Other Provincial highlights
 - \$4 billion annually in contingencies
 - \$1.5 billion over 3 years for expenditure management

Aligning the Budget to our Strategic Plan



Progressive Workforce

We provide a workplace that fosters creativity, inspires excellence, and challenges everyone to embrace growth



Engaging Opportunities

We provide engaging opportunities for every member of our learning community to contribute to student success.



Optimized Resources

We are creative and responsible in the management of educational resources.



Student Success

Our students are engaged, challenged and prepared for a lifetime of success.

Goals

Objectives

Projects

2025-26 Preliminary Budget & Strategic Plan

Priorities set in 2024-25 Updated Strategic Plan

1. Literacy.	Student Success
2. Parent and community engagement.	Engaging Opportunities
3. Student participation in extra-curricular activities.	Engaging Opportunities
4. Early learning.	Student Success
5. Employee engagement.	Progressive Workforce

2025-26 Preliminary Budget & Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar 1

Student Success

Objectives

- Improve student success in literacy.
- Improve early learning.
- Improve student sense of well-being.
- Increase student success in numeracy.
- Increase student core competencies so students can achieve their career and life goals.
- Improve graduation rates.

Strategic Pillar 2

Optimized Resources

Objectives

- Increase the capacity of our school facilities.
- Maximize budget allocations for instructional staffing.
- Maintain a healthy financial position.
- Increase the resources available to fund capital equipment.

Strategic Pillar 3

Engaging Opportunities

Objectives

- Increase parent and community engagement.
- Increase student participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Improve the use of technology.

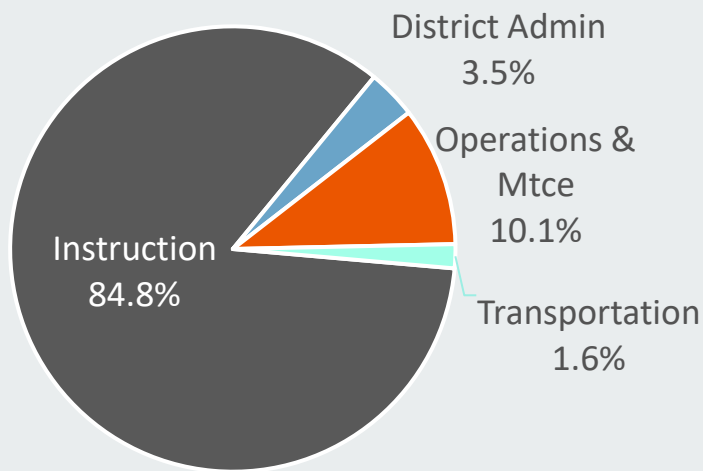
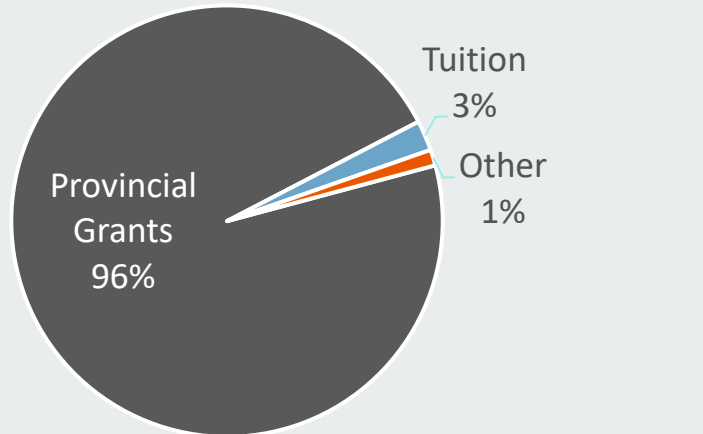
Strategic Pillar 4

Progressive Workforce

Objectives

- Increase employee engagement.
- Improve recruitment and retention of staff.
- Improve leadership capacity.
- Improve employee health, safety and resiliency.

Operating Budget – 2024-25 (Amended)



Current Year Operating Budget (millions)	2024-25
Revenue	242.62
Expense	243.87
Net Revenue (Expense)	(1.25)
Transfers to Capital Fund	(0.43)
Budgeted (Current Year Deficit)	(1.68)

Accumulated Surplus

Operating Reserves (Accumulated Surplus) *AP 524 – Accumulated Surplus*

- Indicator of *financial health*
- Reserves are **one-time funding** sources that cannot sustain on-going services or programs.
- Reserves are necessary to **cover unexpected** and unavoidable expenditures.
- Recommended unrestricted accumulated surplus
 - **1% to 3%** of operating expenses (**\$2.4 M - \$7.3 M**)



Accumulated Surplus

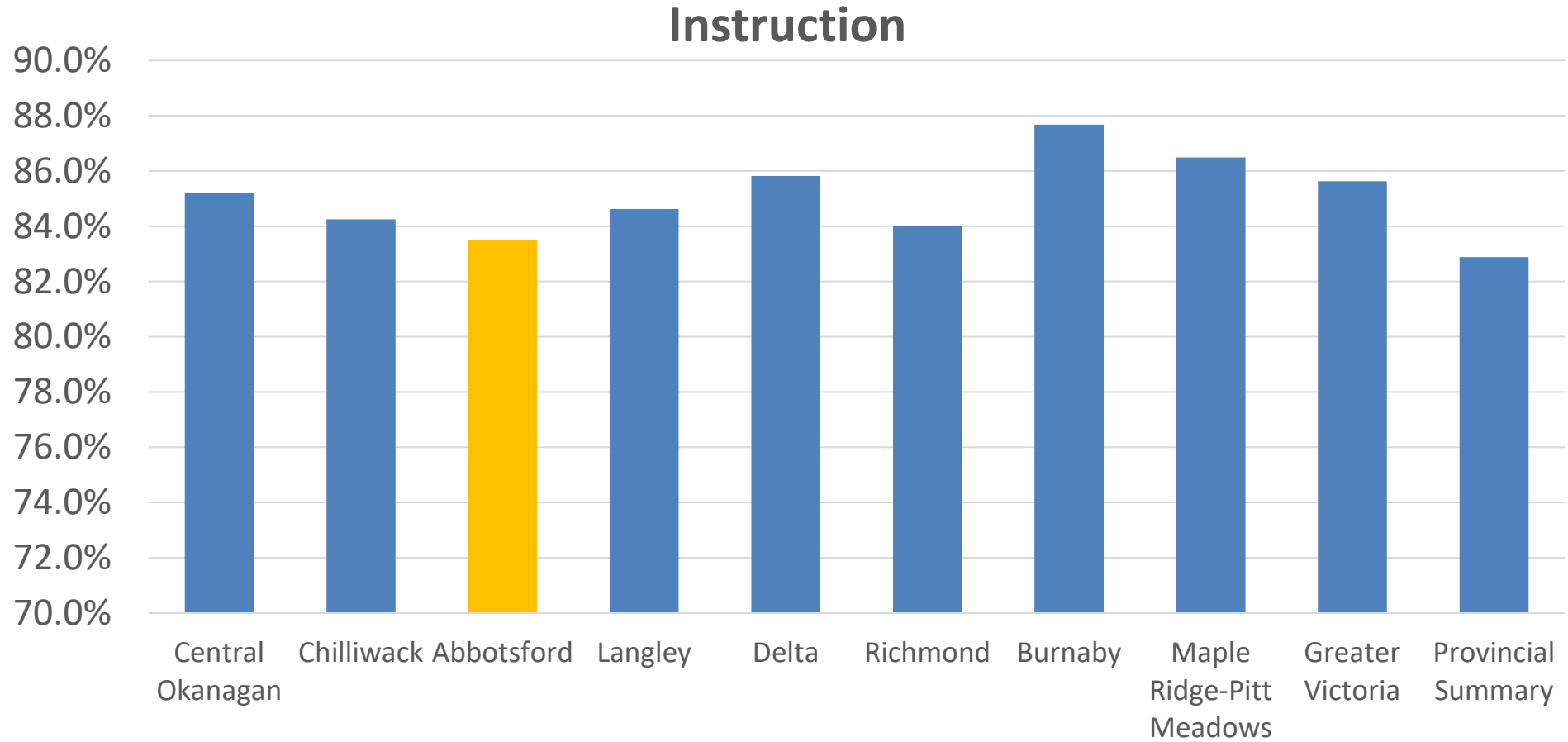
Accumulated Operating Surplus	2023-24
Internally restricted due to constraints on funds	529,042
Internally restricted for planned future operations	1,180,006
Internally restricted for future requirements	1,351,000
Unrestricted Operating Surplus	5,653,918
Total Accumulated Operating Surplus	8,713,966

← Range
\$2.4M - \$7.3M

Looking at
the financial
comparisons

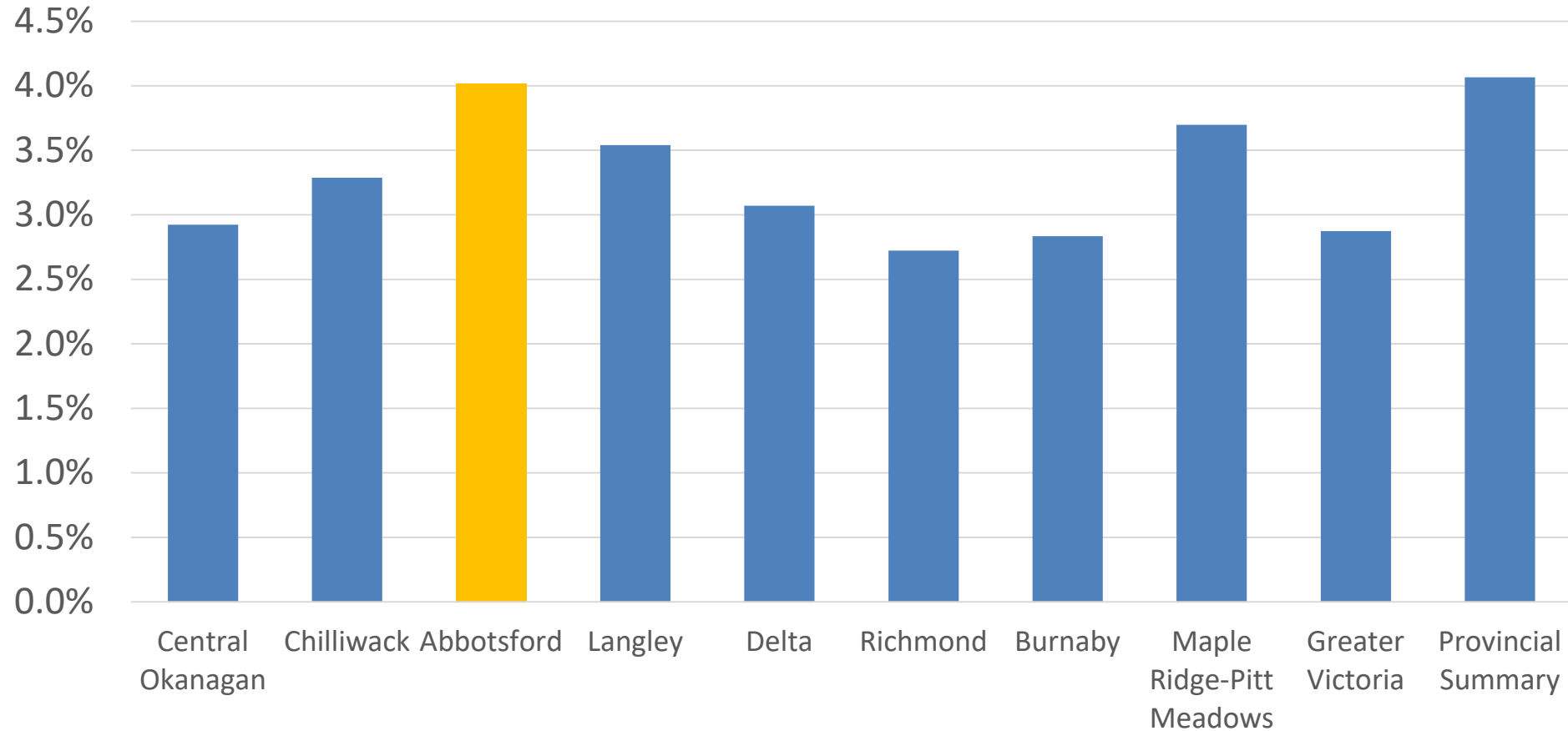


Financial Comparisons



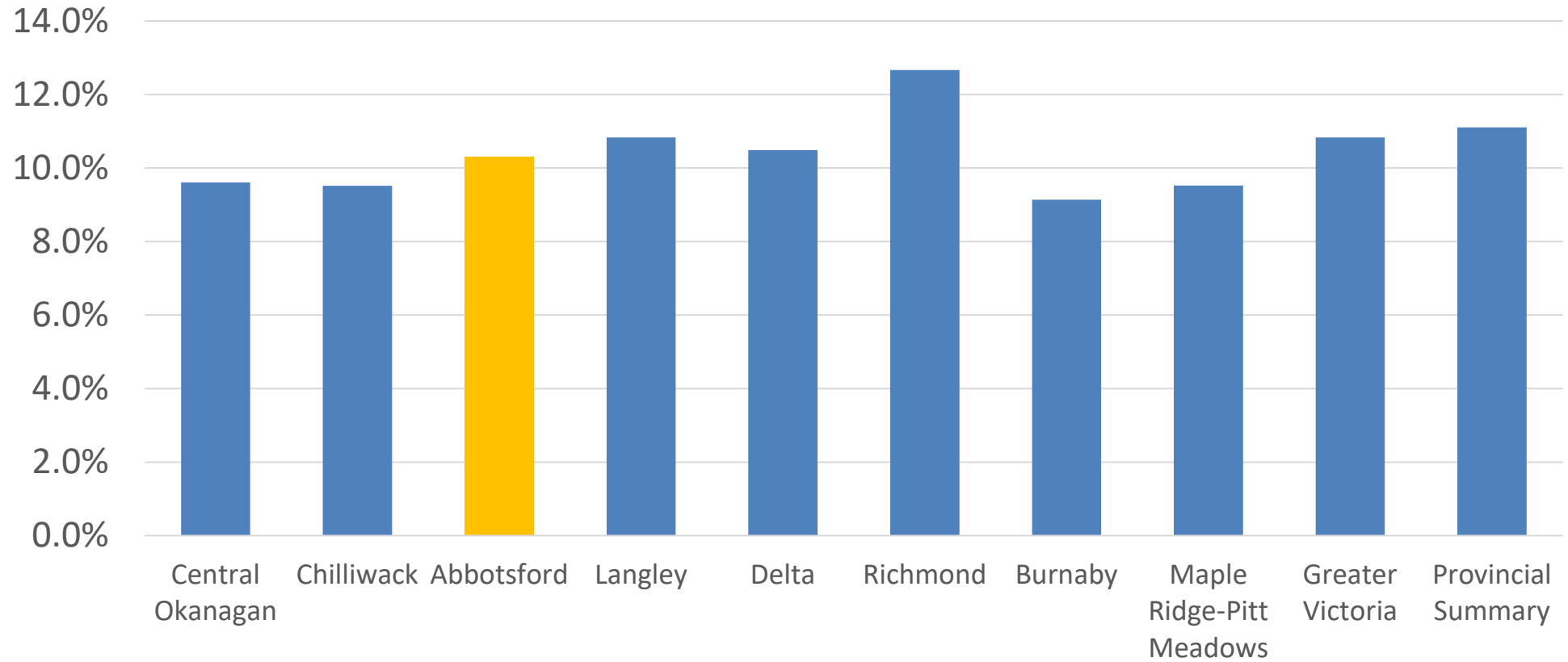
Financial Comparisons

District Admin



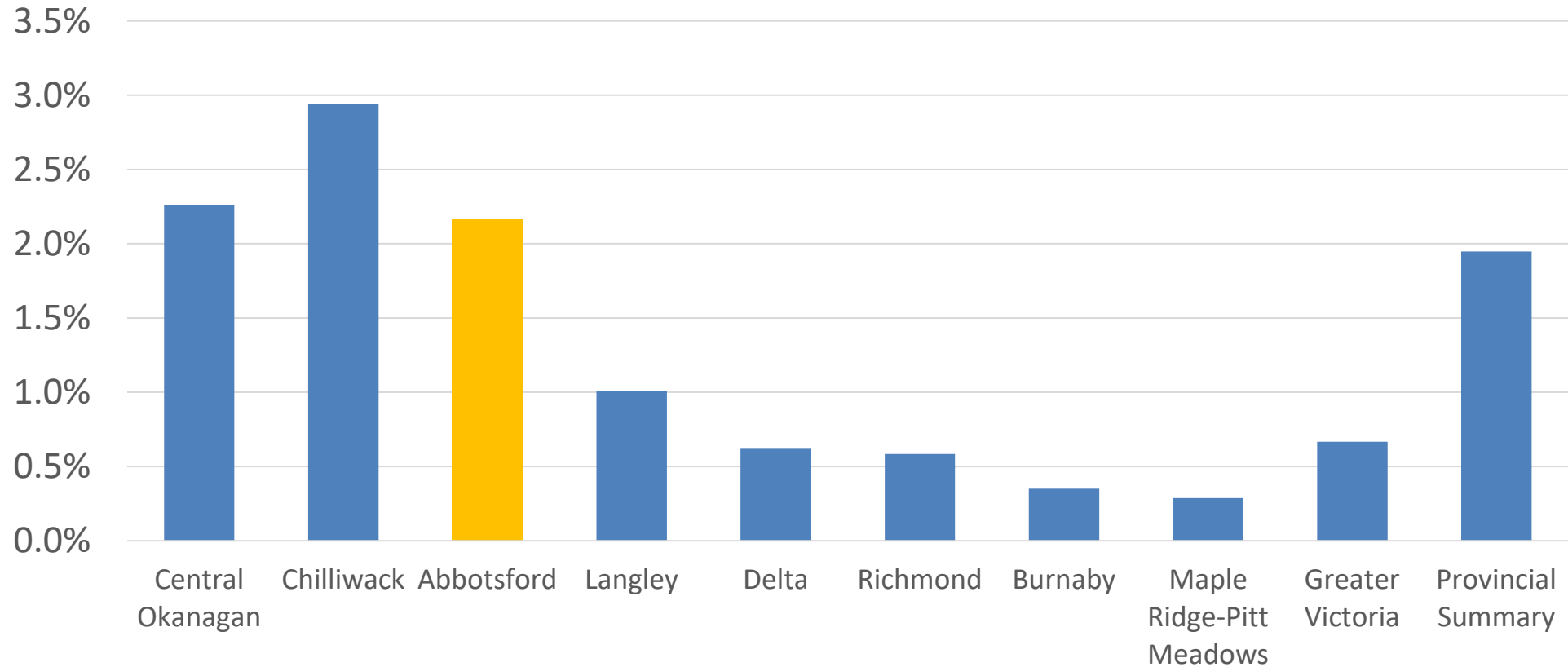
Financial Comparisons

Operations & Maintenance

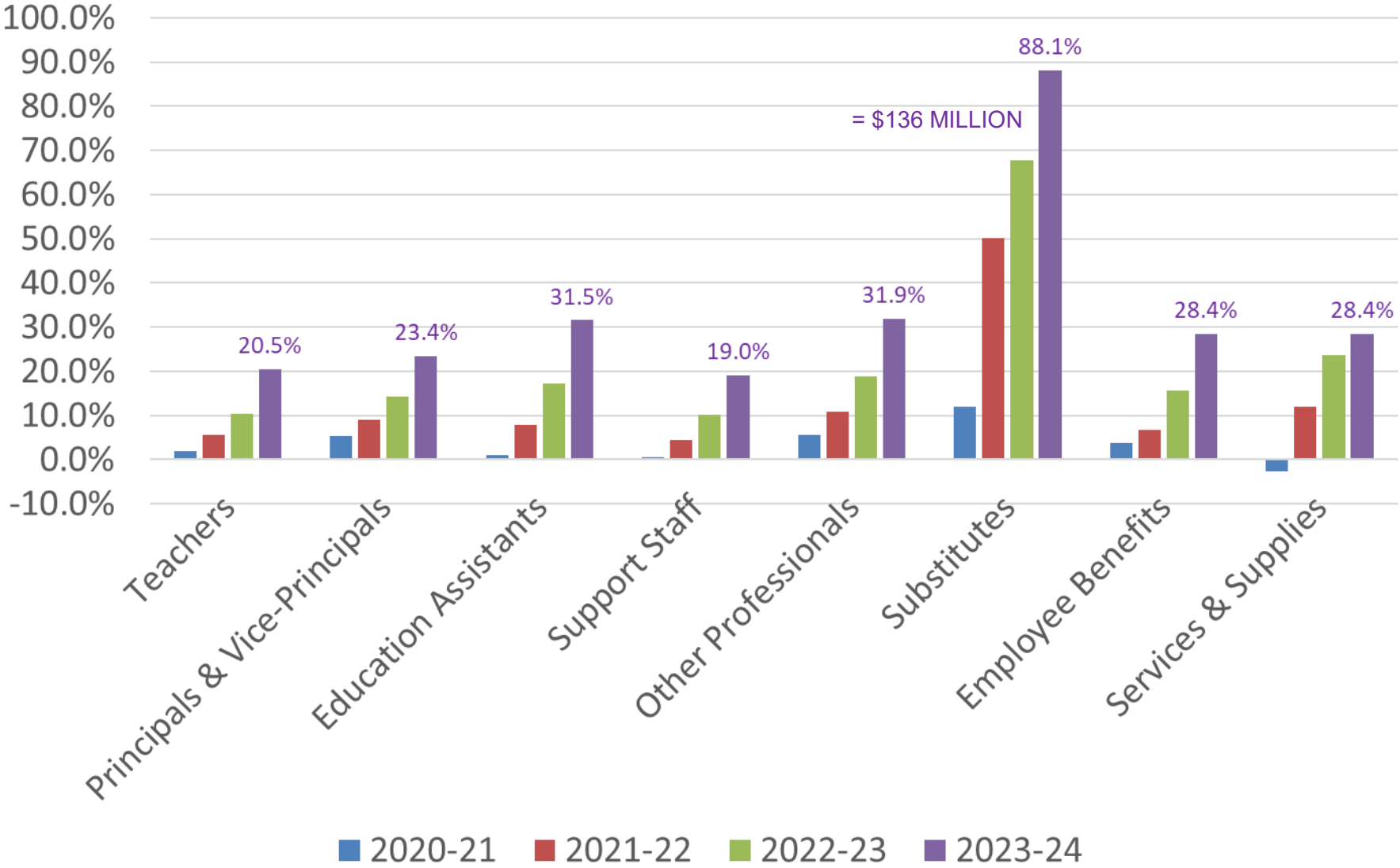


Financial Comparisons

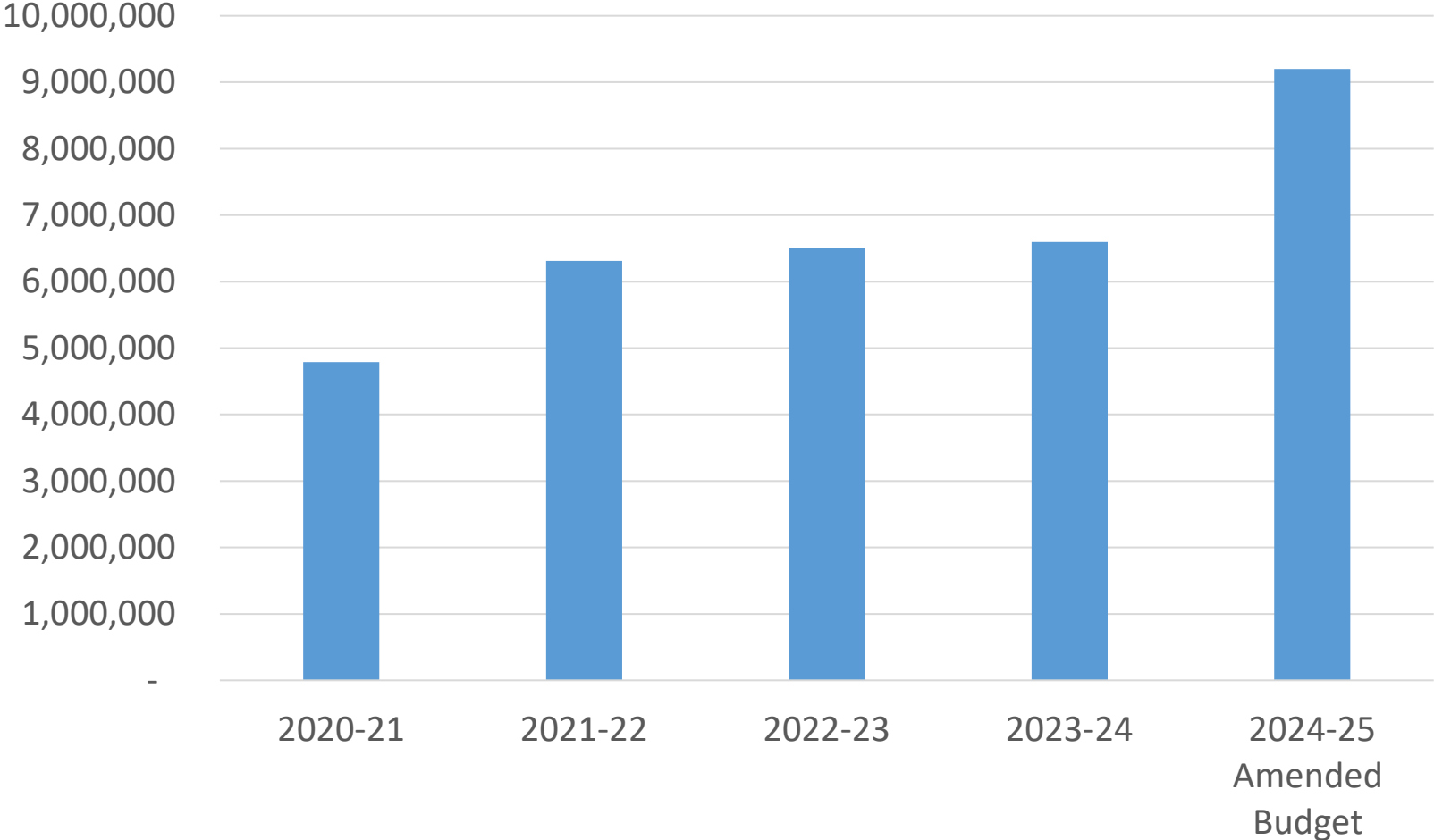
Transportation



Cumulative Change In Provincial Operating Fund Expenditures



Substitute Employee Costs



\$4.4 million
Since 20-21



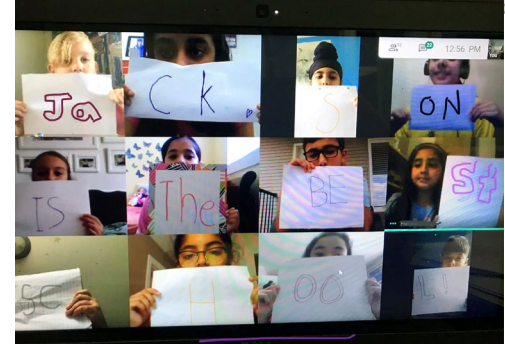
2025-26 Operating Budget Estimates

Operating Fund Budget (millions)	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast
Total Revenue	242.62	242.62
Total Expense	243.87	241.19
Net Revenue (Expense)	-1.25	1.43
Total Interfund Transfers	-0.43	-0.43
Surplus (Deficit) for Year	-1.68	1.00
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), Beginning of Year		8.71
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), End of Year		9.71

2025-26 Preliminary Budget - Assumptions

Current Budget Assumptions

- Enrolment increase of approximately 137 FTE students
- Staffing adjustments relate to enrolment increases only
- No major service or programming changes
- Staffing increases related to class size/composition will be funded by CEF
- Completion of ERP project



2025-26 Preliminary Budget - Budget Pressures

Budget Pressures

- Decrease in International student enrolment/revenue (\$1.5 million)
- Inflationary pressures (\$0.50 million)
- Teacher increments costs (\$1.5 million)
- Increasing substitute employee costs (\$0.80 million - \$3.4 million since 2024)
- Employee benefits (\$0.60 million - unfunded)
- Recruitment challenges
- Student transportation – service level demands
- Technology upgrades (\$0.50 million)



Consider Risks

Risks to the Budget

- Unplanned enrolment changes
- International enrolment fluctuations
- Staffing shortages
- Economic uncertainty/inflation
- Unplanned expenditures
- Technology security risks
- Potential for increasing employee absence costs



2025-26 Budget Development Plan

Stakeholder engagement opportunities

- Budget engagement portal
- IEC consultation
- Stakeholder meetings
- Public Information meetings

Preliminary Budget Estimates

- Operating Grant Announcement – March 13/25
- Revenue & expense (program) estimates
- Budget to Ministry of Education by June 30



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Questions

