



**DISTRICT 36 PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
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**Backgrounder: Surrey School District's Growth and Case for New Schools**

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The Surrey school district (SD36) is the fastest growing and largest school district in British Columbia (BC) with student population in excess of 72,000 students with an average per student funding of \$8,657 for the 2017-18 school year, compared to the provincial average of \$9,099 per student. For 2017-18 fiscal year, Surrey is expected to spend over \$4.2 million out of its operating budget on its 325 portables. The plethora of portables is unique to Surrey in that the population of approximately 8000+ students in Surrey's portables exceed the whole student population of the New Westminster school district.

Due to the diversion of \$4.2 million out of Surrey district's operating budget annually to maintain and operate portables, Surrey students are unjustly and inequitable treated compared to the rest of BC. Some common problems/concerns attributed to overcrowding and extended bell system are:

- No dedicated technology/ computer room, music room in some schools, etc.
- No teachers available before and after class (Parents now paying for tutors!)
- Unable to get core classes for graduation
- Forced or encouraged to graduate early after all core classes were taken
- No opportunity/ increased competition to be on sports teams, band, etc.
- Health and safety issues relating to waiting for washrooms, air circulation, and germs/ bacteria

Additionally, there are 187 portables in Surrey's highest growth catchment areas (33 elementary schools feeding into 5 secondary schools: Sullivan Heights Secondary, Clayton Heights Secondary, Ecole Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary, Semiahmoo Secondary, and Ecole Earl Marriott Secondary School) have total enrollment of 22,907 students (enrolled 5,005 more students than their total capacity of 17,902 students). An average of 128% of its capacity. For comparison purposes, the entire Langley school district had 21,586 students in 41 schools in the 2016-17 school year.

New school builds or expansions to existing schools did not grow in tandem to its student population. New school builds are eight years behind schedule.

Just to keep up with annual growth of 1000 students (based on estimated 10% of 100,000 City population growth), Surrey needs new schools now! It needs two new elementary schools every year and one new secondary school every two to three years.

The Funding Formula Review Committee must address population growth and unique costs due to proliferation of portables.