

Education Property Tax Questions and Answers

Why does the province collect property taxes for education?

Education property taxes provide a stable source of revenue for funding education. Without this revenue source, Albertans would be required to contribute to the costs of funding education through other taxes or charges.

Where do education property taxes go?

Education property taxes help to pay for teachers' salaries, textbooks, and other classroom resources in both public and separate schools. They are not used to fund government operations, capital costs like school construction or renovation, or teachers' pensions.

How is education property tax allocated among municipalities?

Each municipality's portion of the provincial requisition is determined by applying the provincial uniform tax rates to the municipality's 2016 equalized assessment. Municipalities collect local education property taxes from property owners to pay the requisitions. Properties of similar value and property type across the province pay similar amounts of education property taxes.

How is education funding allocated?

Under the provincial funding model, all education property taxes, including property taxes received by separate school boards, are pooled by Alberta Education through the Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF) and distributed to public and separate school boards on an equal per-student basis. When a separate school board has opted out of the ASFF and the local requisition per student is less than the ASFF payment, the difference will be paid from the ASFF. If the local requisition is more than the ASFF payment, the difference must be paid into the ASFF.

Why are property owners asked to declare their faith?

In Alberta, the Constitution guarantees Roman Catholic citizens' minority rights to a separate education system. In communities with separate school jurisdictions, property owners can declare they are of the Roman Catholic faith so their education property tax dollars can be directed to those separate school jurisdictions. While declaration does not change the amount of per-student education funding, it supports the municipal process of providing education funding directly to separate school boards; which are opted out of the ASFF. The ASFF supports a province wide process that distributes funds to school jurisdictions across the province. The amount of per-student education funding is the same whether a student is enrolled in a public or separate school.

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Why must seniors, singles, and people without children pay education property taxes?

Alberta's education system supports the development of a skilled workforce, contributes to growth in the economy, and supports the social well-being of individuals and the province as a whole. These benefits reach all Albertans, regardless of their age, marital status, or whether they have children. As such, all property owners are required to contribute to education funding through the education property tax.

Questions about financial assistance for seniors or the Seniors Property Tax Deferral program can be directed to the **Alberta Supports Contact Centre at 1-877-644-9992 (in Edmonton - 780-644-9992).**