

Q *Why does the province collect property taxes for education?*

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

Q *Where do education property taxes go?*

Education property taxes are pooled in the Alberta School Foundation Fund and are distributed to public and separate school boards based on an equitable per-student funding formula.

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.

Q *How is the provincial education property tax amount determined?*

The total amount of education tax collected from Alberta's property owners is based on 32 per cent of the operating cost target for funding basic education.

For the 2014/15 fiscal year, the province will invest about \$6.58 billion in Kindergarten to Grade 12 education, of which about \$2.106 billion will be raised through education property taxes across Alberta.

Q *How is education property tax allocated among municipalities?*

The education requisitions for each municipality are determined by applying the provincial uniform tax rates to the municipality's equalized assessment, resulting in an equitable distribution among municipalities.

Q *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.

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).**

Q *Why are property owners asked to declare their faith?*

Canada's Constitution establishes the provincial separate school systems on the basis of religion – Protestant or Roman Catholic. Therefore, it is necessary to ask property owners to declare their faith in municipalities where a separate school jurisdiction has been established.

Once a separate school jurisdiction is formed, all members of the faith must direct their taxes to the separate district. All others must direct their taxes to the public district, which are remitted to the Alberta School Foundation Fund.

Since all students across the province are funded on an equitable per-student basis, the declaration does not affect the funding of any public or separate school board.