



## Course Information

Prefix & number	Title
EDST 552 – 21 - 3	School Finance
Instructor	Prerequisites or restrictions (if any)
Dr. Gerald Fallon	None

### Focus or Content

School finance is not merely about budgets. It is about the politics, policies and competing interests that go *into deciding who and what matters in education*. In this course, we will explore the connections between issues of equity and social justice, and the decisions about budget allocations in educational settings: What do we fund or cut? What does a school district budget decision say about what is valued and not by district leaders? This course looks at finance as part of larger socio-political contexts in Canada and BC. This course will be of interests to teachers and school- and district-based administrators, and those working on social justice and equity issues in K-12 education.

### Goals, Objectives or Learning Outcomes

What should practicing school leaders know about the financing of education? Should we consider a budget as a discourse underlined by a certain understanding of what is public education, how should we provide it, for what purposes, and for whose benefit? These are the key guiding questions for this course. It is expected that the course will enable participants to develop an understanding of:

- The basic approaches used to fund education, their rationales in terms of equity, adequacy, and efficiency, and their applicability to different types and levels of educational services.
- The issues surrounding alternative revenue sources for education with particular focus on the property tax and market-driven funding mechanisms,
- The main issues surrounding school-based budgeting and management in neoliberal times.

### Assignments or Assessment Process

- Contribution to class discussions and presentations - 20%
- Critical Issue Focus Paper (40% - 2500 words): *Equity and Adequacy in Education Finance*
- Critical analysis of a school district budgeting process (oral presentation): 40%

### Notes/Other

Instruction will consist of a combination of lectures by the instructor and guest speakers, participant presentation of cases, and small and large group discussions of financial issues. As a community of learners, you will share your personal, professional, and collaborative queries, explorations, and expertise through group discussions and projects.