



PCS Financial FAQ – April 3, 2020

These are difficult times. Many people are currently off work or have seen their incomes significantly decline. What has PCS done to try and reduce costs in this environment?

PCS has taken numerous steps. These include:

- Reducing all maintenance services to an absolute minimum
- Reducing electricity and utility consumption
- Freezing all discretionary spending - including all curriculum purchases. Only a limited number of expenses are being approved to facilitate online education delivery.
- Reducing insurance on our vehicle fleet to storage only (apart from one maintenance van)
- Cancelling all capital projects, unless they are required to protect the integrity of our buildings (such as repairing roof leaks). This includes the cancellation of all facilities improvements (such as new flooring, and lighting), and replacement of broken or worn furnishings.

What about personnel expenses?

About 80% of the costs of running PCS are wage and benefit expenses. It's important to realize that PCS is continuing to provide for the ongoing education of our students. School is still in session. Most staff are finding that their workload has increased as we try to quickly develop new ways of delivering education and support and provide necessary supports for all of our students. At the same time, several staff have been placed on unpaid leave. We have a very limited ability to further reduce staffing and comply with the Ministerial order to continue to provide ongoing educational services.

What about tuition?

Tuition and government grants provide the income we need to do the work we are called to do by our school mission and mandated to do by the Government. As members of both the Federation of Independent Schools (FISA) and the Society of Christian Schools in British Columbia (SCSBC), we are aware that all independent schools in the province face the same dilemma. To continue to provide educational services, we need to charge tuition. Government grants alone are not enough to pay for the services we continue to provide and account for only about 40% of our income and expenses. Tuition covers the rest.

We do understand the difficult circumstances that the COVID pandemic has created. PCS responded to this need quickly, and was one of the first independent schools in the province to offer [financial assistance](#) (up to a full tuition waiver) to those most in need. We are continuing to do all that we can to assist and, many people in the PCS community are also donating to help this program. It is a team effort.

As a school, we remain committed to supporting and journeying with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.