

K-12 Education Broken Promises

1. Promise made

We will protect education funding.

A New Era for British Columbia, the BC Liberals (2001)

Promise broken

The B.C. Liberal government's 2002 budget froze education funding and downloaded enormous additional costs onto school boards, thus creating a funding shortfall of at least \$300 million. The results? 113 schools closed, 2,500 fewer teachers, larger classes in every grade, and less support for students with special needs.

BC Liberal government's Budget 2002

2. Promise made

Establish specific goals and outcomes to measure the success of educators in public schooling.

A New Era for British Columbia, the BC Liberals (2001)

Promise broken

The Campbell Liberal government fired BC College of Teachers' elected councilors and installed handpicked appointees. Teachers successfully challenged the politicization of their professional organization.

3. Promise made

Give local school boards more autonomy and control over the delivery of education services, subject to provincial curriculum and testing standards.

A New Era for British Columbia, the BC Liberals (2001)

Promise broken

The only "autonomy and control" the Campbell Liberals have given school boards is to decide which services and programs to cut.

A confidential cabinet briefing document outlined how the new education funding formula could insulate government from criticism, while holding local boards accountable for the consequences of the Liberals' policies.

Confidential Cabinet Document Number 71061, January 2002

4. Promise made

Give school boards multi-year funding envelopes, to improve long-term education planning and budgeting.

A New Era for British Columbia, the BC Liberals (2001)

Promise broken

The multi-year funding freeze has harmed education planning and budgeting.

In fact, as public pressure for increased funding has grown, the Liberals have repeatedly dropped surprise "one-time grants" into school board coffers - the exact opposite of what they promised.

Ministry of Education news releases, including March 28, 2002; February 10, 2003; and January 31, 2004