

August 24, 2007

BCSSA Summer Leadership Academy

On August 16, I spoke at the BCSSA Summer Leadership Academy. I presented graphical information about the education trends that we are seeing in our province. The graphs included the number of students in distributed learning, apprenticeship programs, special education, ESL programs, and enrolment projections; as well as the completion rate for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. The graphs were at both the provincial level and specific to each district.

I asked the superintendents to consider four questions: (1) How do the trends from your district and the province compare to what you might have expected? (2) What are some surprises for you? (3) What questions need to be answered in order to deepen your understanding and enable you to move to action? And finally, (4) Based on the trends for the province and your district – how will you keep the “main thing” the “main thing”?

Following is the provincial data. You can get a PDF version of your district’s graphs by sending a note to Gerald. Morton@gov.bc.ca. (Please make the subject line of the note “Conversation on Education Graphs”).

Think about how the trends affect your school, and how that might affect the decisions you are making as you provide support to each of your students. You might also consider asking at the school level, the four questions the superintendents considered from a district perspective.



Emery Dossdall, Ed D
Deputy Minister of Education

Conversation on Education

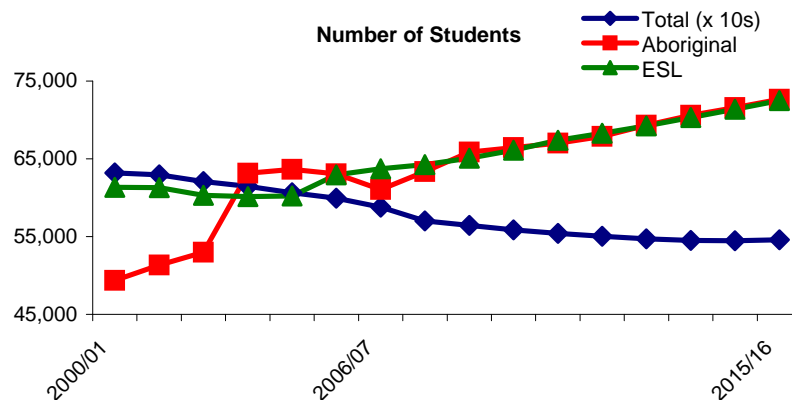
BCSSA Summer Leadership Academy

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Looking ahead to the 2015/16 school year ...

Province

- 50,000 students taking one DL course in 2007/08
- The percentage of Aboriginal and ESL students will increase from 10% in 2004/05 to 13% in 2015/16
- The number of students in rural schools will decrease by 20,000 over the next nine years.

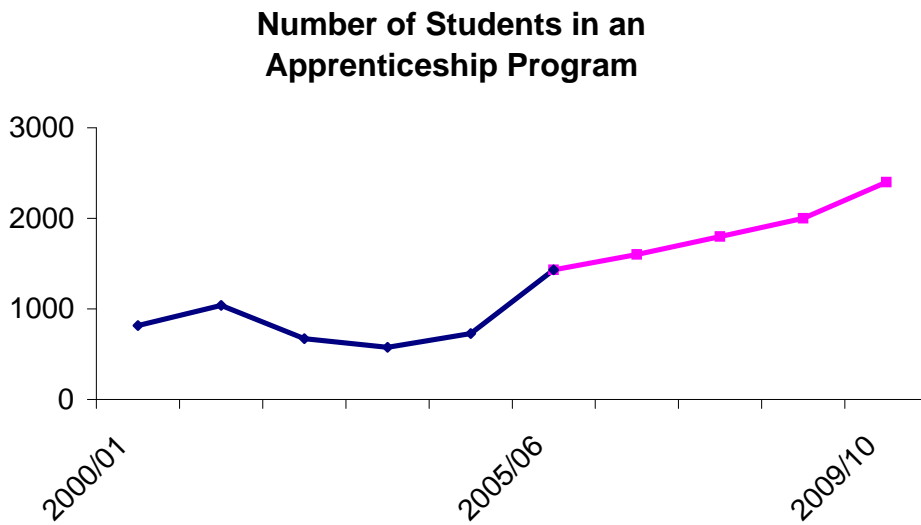
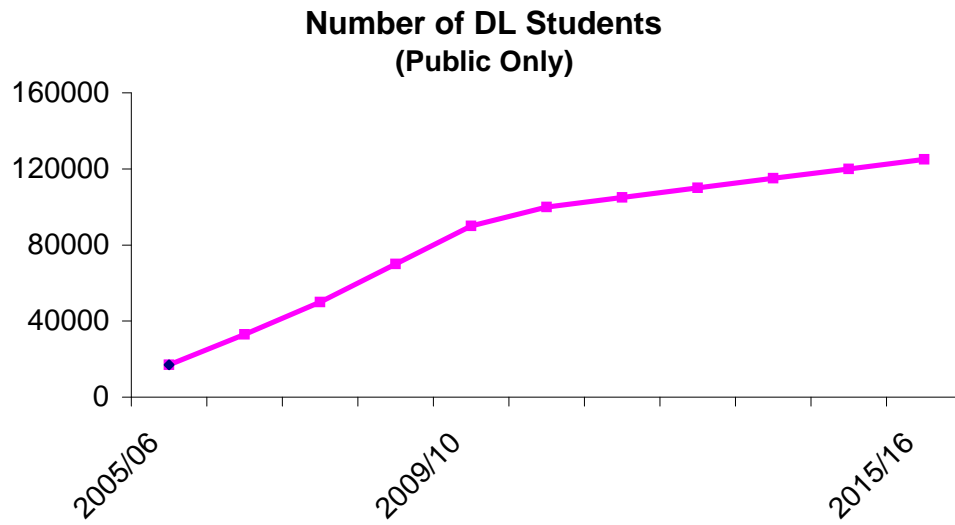
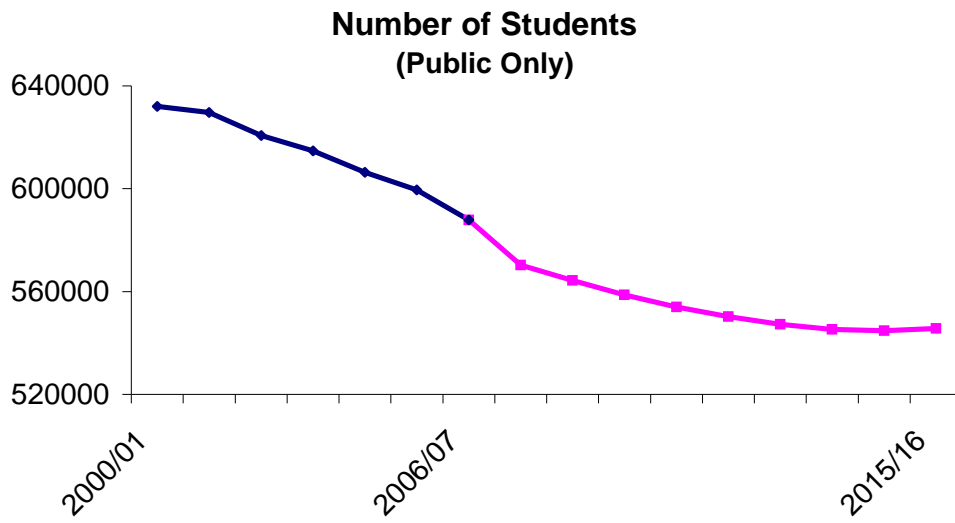


The graphs are based on public & independent school data except where noted in the title.

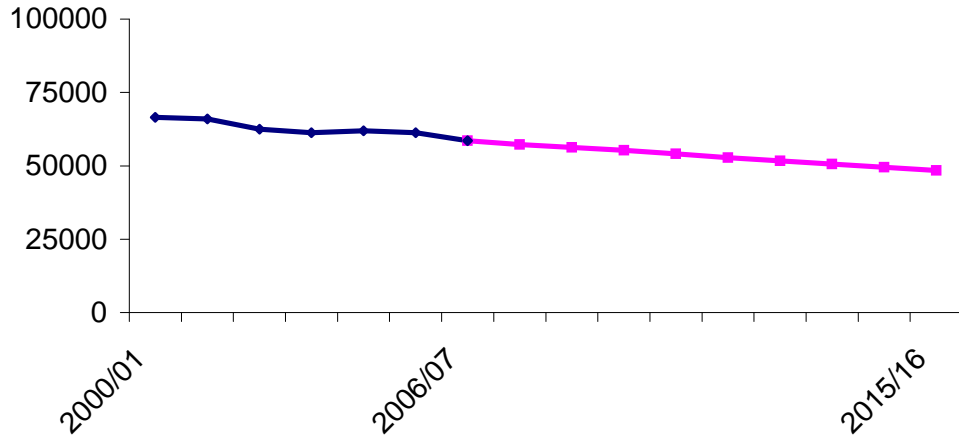
In cases where we felt trends would remain stable, projections are based on a five-year moving-average; this method was modified if other information was available. Projections not following the five-year moving average include:

- Number of Students
- Number of DL Students
- Number of Students in an Apprenticeship Program
- Number of Graduates
- Number of Secondary Schools with less than 200 Students

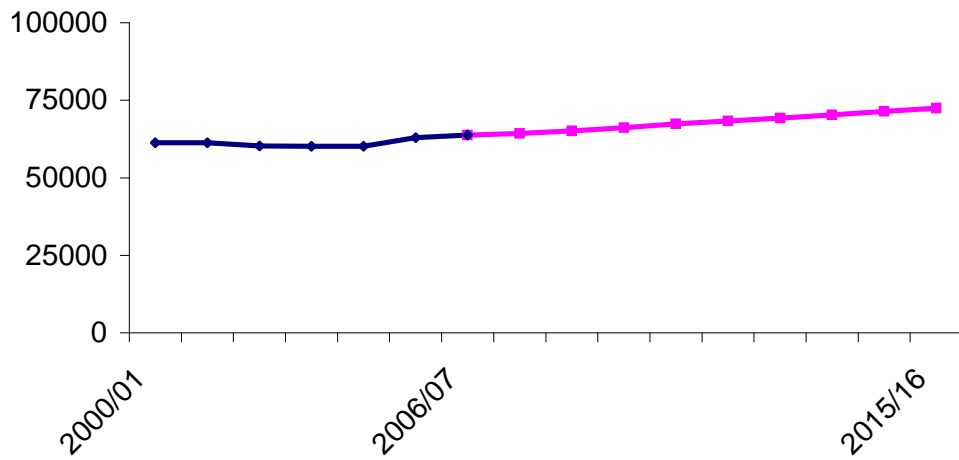
The methods used for these projections are provided on the last page.



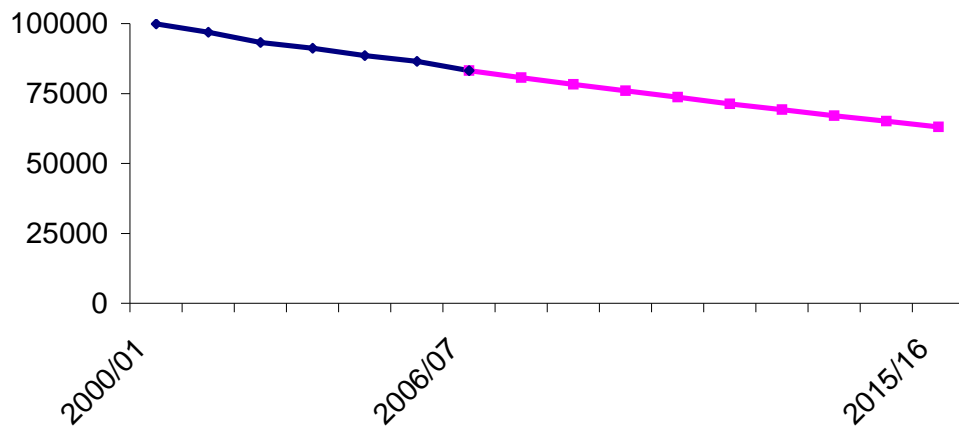
**Number of Students in Special Education
(Public Only)**



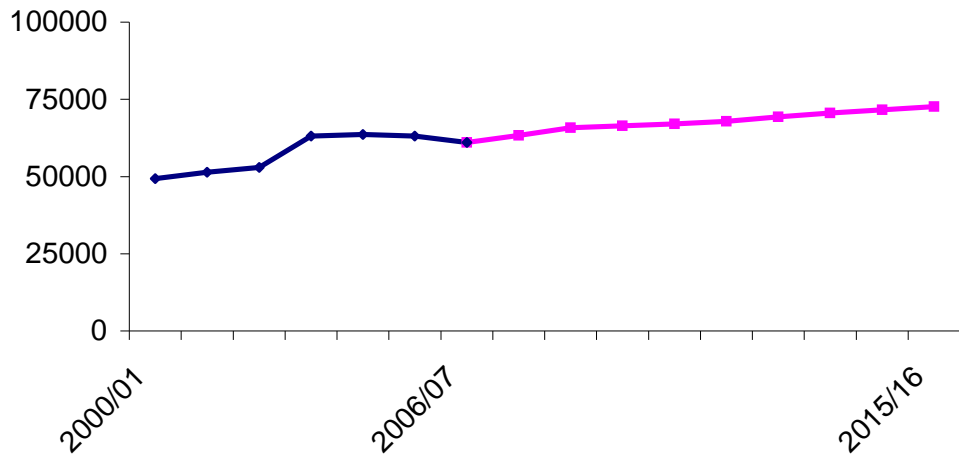
Number of ESL Students



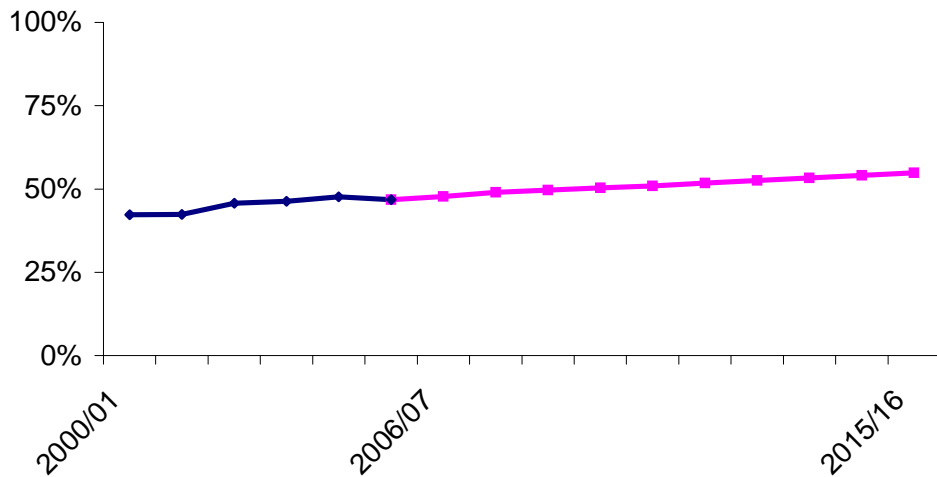
Number of Students in Rural Schools



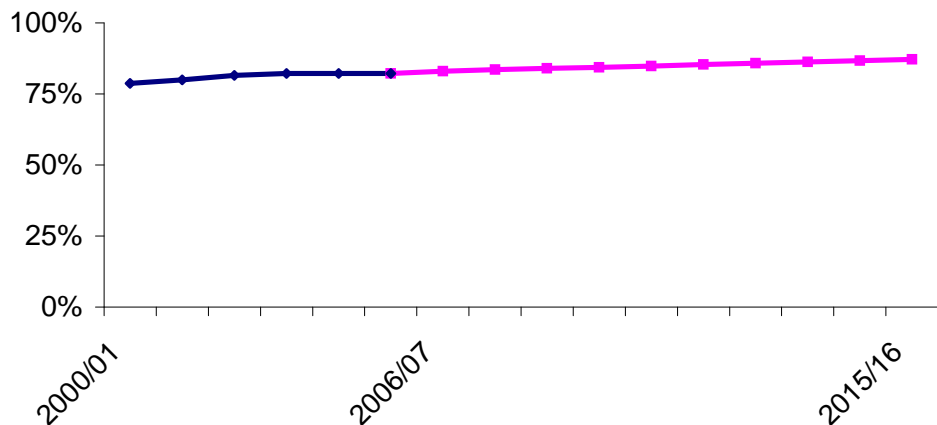
Number of Aboriginal Students



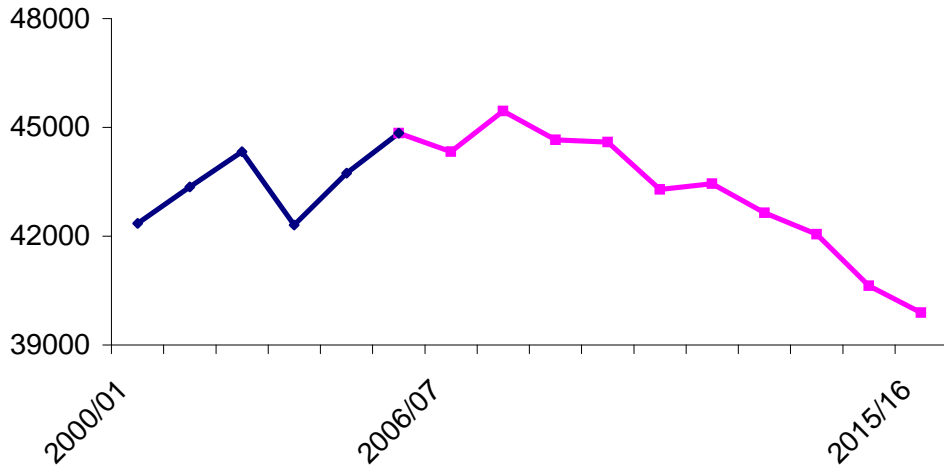
Aboriginal Completion Rate



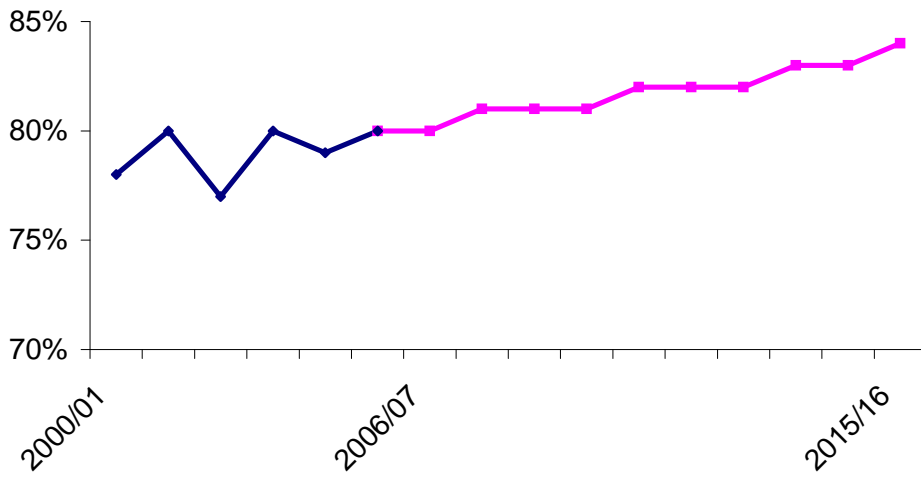
Non-Aboriginal Completion Rate



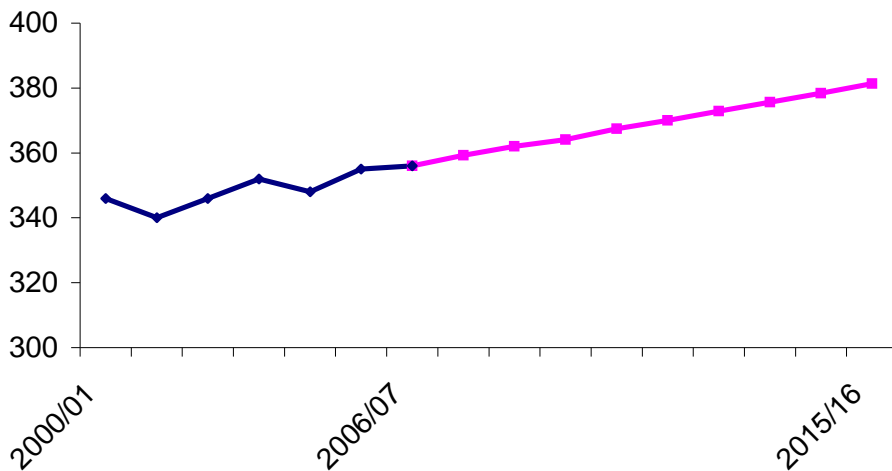
Number of Graduates



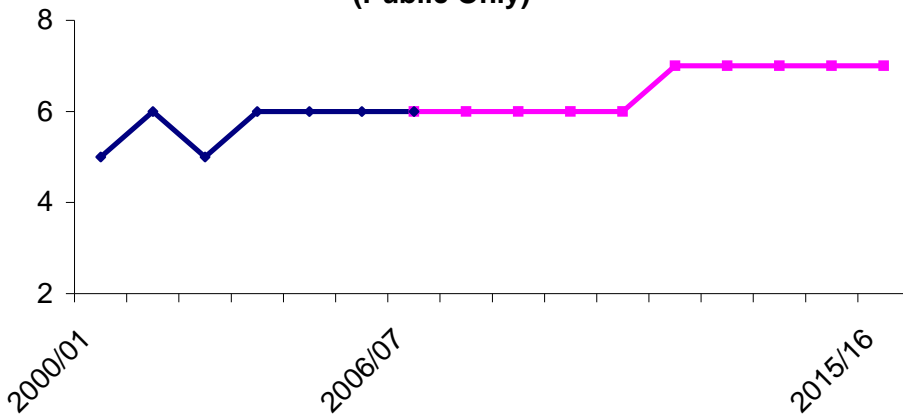
FSA Grade 4 Reading: % Meeting or Exceeding



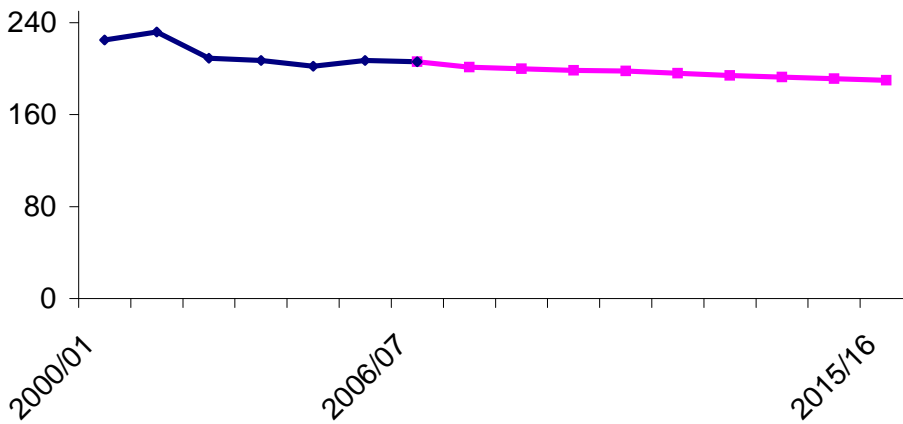
Number of Independent Schools



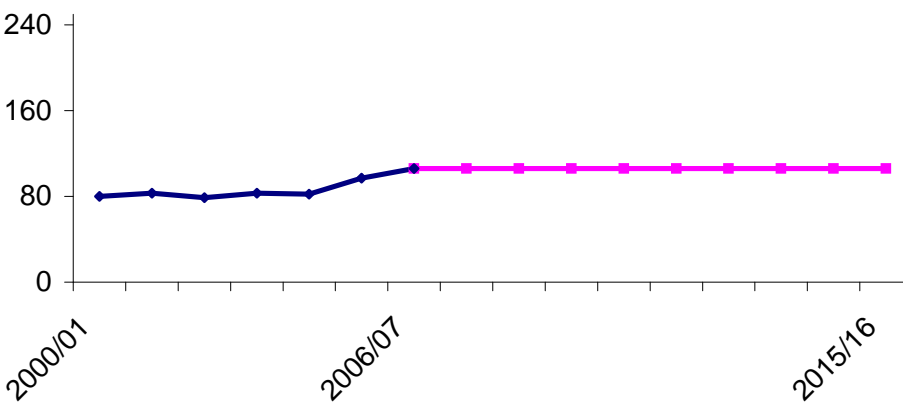
**Number of Districts with
less than 1000 Students
(Public Only)**



**Number of Elementary Schools with
less than 100 Students**



**Number of Secondary Schools with
less than 200 Students**



GLOSSARY ITEM	DEFINITION
Aboriginal Student	A student who has self-identified as being of Aboriginal ancestry (First Nations: status and non-status, Metis or Inuit).
Distributed Learning	A method of instruction that relies primarily on indirect communication between students and teachers, including internet or other electronic-based delivery, teleconferencing, or correspondence.
Enrolment	A record of a student reported to the Ministry as receiving an educational program. A student may be recorded and counted as an enrolment in more than one school. Registered homeschooled children are not included.
English as a Second Language Program (ESL)	A program provided to students whose primary languages are other than English, and who may require additional services.
Graduate	A student that has met the British Columbia Graduation Requirements.
Independent School	A school that is maintained and operated in British Columbia by an authority that provides an educational program to 10 or more school-aged students as outlined in the <i>Independent School Act</i> . All independent schools must hold a valid Certificate of Group Classification issued by the Inspector of Independent Schools.
Performance (Foundation Skills Assessment)	The student performance levels are: <i>Exceeding Expectations</i> - exceeded the expectations for student's grade <i>Meeting Expectations</i> - met the accepted expectations for student's grade <i>Not Yet Meeting Expectations</i> - did not demonstrate sufficient skills to meet the minimum expectations for student's grade.
Public School	A body of students, teachers, other staff, and facilities organized as a unit for educational purposes under the supervision of an administrative officer and administered by a district school board.
Rural School	A school with a postal code outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres (Census Metropolitan Areas, areas with an urban core population of at least 100,000, or Census Agglomerations, areas with urban cores of 10,000 to 99,999 people).
School District	A geographic area in British Columbia constituted as a district under the <i>School Act</i> . There are currently 59 school districts and one Francophone Education Authority.
Secondary School Apprenticeship	Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) is a career program that gives you the opportunity to begin an apprenticeship while still in high school, and to earn high school credits for doing so.
Six-Year Completion Rate/Completion Rate	The portion of students who graduate, with a Certificate of Graduation, within six years from the first time they enroll in Grade 8, adjusted for migration in and out of British Columbia.
Special Needs Performance Reporting Groups	Constructed from Special Needs categories for the purpose of identifying students who are most likely to be working towards a Certificate of Graduation and for whom the Ministry's student achievement measures are most meaningful: Sensory Disabilities (Categories E and F) Learning Disabilities (Category Q) Behaviour Disabilities (Categories H and R) Gifted (Category P)
Student	An individual enrolled in a British Columbia school. Students include all school-aged and adult persons who are working toward a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation.

CATEGORY	METHOD USED
Number of Students	From the Ministry of Education's 2006/07 SUMMARY OF KEY INFORMATION
Number of DL Students	From DL Unit, Ministry of Education
Number of Students in Apprenticeship Program	From Student Transition Unit, Ministry of Education
Number of Graduates	Based on the number of Grade 4 students enrolled eight years prior to the graduation year, multiplied by the proportion of Grade 4 students who graduate within eight years.
Number of Secondary Schools with Less than 200 Students	Only 11 secondary schools have a student population between 200 and 250, it is not likely that there will be a great increase in this number, and the increase will likely be offset by school closures.