



January 22, 2019

Ref: 207436

Dear Education Partner,

I would like to wish you and your members a Happy New Year. I would also like to thank you and your members for the valuable feedback you provided during the funding model review process. The review portion of this process is now complete and the report's comprehensive recommendations are now publicly available. The recommendations provide a road map for our sector to help improve the K-12 public education funding system and make a real difference for students across the province.

As I have previously committed, there will be no changes to the funding model for the 2019/20 school year as a result of these recommendations. Over the next few months, we will work with our partners and stakeholders on how best to implement the Panel's recommendations, guided by the principles that government established in collaboration with the BC School Trustees Association at the outset of this process. Specifically, we are collectively working towards a funding system that is responsive, equitable, stable and predictable, flexible, transparent and accountable.

I am pleased to invite you to an all-day Deputy Minister-led partner meeting in Vancouver on February 15, 2019 (8:30am-3:30pm). The purpose of the forum will be to develop a common understanding of the current funding model, the review process, and the recommendations, as well as to clarify the upcoming engagement process and timelines. The outcome of the meeting will help inform and provide direction to working groups, who will assess the implications of the recommendations and identify strategies to address them. In preparation for the upcoming engagements, the Ministry of Education is requesting preliminary feedback from your organizations on the recommendations, and I am asking you to solicit feedback from your members on the following themes:

1. List the recommendations in order of importance to your organization. Some recommendations may have multiple components. If your members feel that certain aspects of a particular recommendation are more important than others, please be sure to identify them in order of importance.
2. Specify the recommendations that your organization may want to see implemented earlier, to best support student achievement. Again, if there are aspects of a recommendation that should be implemented earlier, please be sure to identify those components.
3. Identify the recommendations that your association feels are the most challenging to implement and identify specific implications and concerns associated with those recommendations. Where possible, please provide meaningful supporting evidence.

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Please RSVP your participation for this partner meeting as soon as possible by email to K12fundingreview@gov.bc.ca. Note: Both the President and Executive Director (or equivalent) from your organization(s) are welcome to participate in the meeting.

I request that your submissions on the topics noted above be submitted to the Ministry by February 22, 2019. They can be emailed to K12fundingreview@gov.bc.ca.

The information that your organization provides at this stage in the process is critical – it is foundational input that will help focus the time and efforts of several working groups. Membership on the working groups will include a range of partners and stakeholders, such as teachers, parents, trustees, school district staff, and other associations. The working groups start meeting in March 2019, and will be organized as follows:

Inclusive Education	<i>Co-chairs:</i> Cloe Nicholls, Executive Director, Learning Division Pieter Langstraat
Online Learning	<i>Co-chairs:</i> Nikki Lachance, Executive Director, Learning Division Mike McKay
Adult and Continuing Education	<i>Co-chairs:</i> Emilie Hillier, Executive Director, Education Programs Division Debbie Jeffrey, First Nations Education Steering Committee
Financial Management	<i>Co-chairs:</i> Kim Horn, Executive Director, Resource Management Division Joan Axford

Given that the accountability topic is relevant across all the areas noted above and will be discussed as part of these various working groups, Keith Godin will be establishing a separate Accountability Advisory Committee that will guide the implementation of an accountability framework aligned with the recommendations. This framework will require school districts to develop strategic plans that are measurable and focused on student outcomes. More information on the Accountability Advisory Committee will be provided soon.

I expect that education partners and stakeholders will have a range of perspectives on the recommendations. It is important that we capture these differences and develop a common understanding of the current model, the proposed changes, and the implications, before proceeding further. My expectation is that working groups will focus on the following activities:

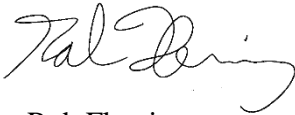
- ensuring that all members understand how funding is currently calculated, including the supporting policies and legislation, and the potential changes needed to implement the recommendations; and
- exploring the implications and challenges of implementing the recommendations and possible solutions.

The working groups are expected to meet up to five times between March and September 2019 and will be responsible for delivering a completed reporting template (to be included in the Terms of Reference for each group) in the Fall of 2019. Once all working group reports are received, I commit to gathering all partner groups together again to share the results and to discuss next steps.

I look forward to working with all the Ministry's stakeholders and partners as we make important improvements to the funding system. I recognize the importance of ongoing, consistent communication throughout this process and so I will provide regular progress updates to you as we move forward. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Reg Bawa, Assistant Deputy Minister, by email at K12fundingreview@gov.bc.ca.

Again, thank you for continued engagement and support as we work together to make these important improvements for the students of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rob Fleming
Minister