



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

May 18, 2022

The Honourable Selina Robinson

Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2
fin.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2
educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Robinson and Minister Whiteside,

Subject: K-12 Operating Grant

At the British Columbia School Trustees Association's most recent annual general meeting, our membership, representing all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

"That the BCSTA urge the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education to fully fund all incremental payroll and other inflationary costs that have not been covered in the K-12 estimated operating grants announced for the 2022/23 school year.

And

The per pupil funding in the K12 operating block funding announced for the 2022/23 school year be adjusted to cover all incremental payroll increases and other inflationary cost pressures being experienced by districts.

And

That the BCSTA urge the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education to notify all districts prior to May 31 2022, of changes in the K-12 estimated operating grant for the 2022/23 school year that will cover incremental payroll and other inflationary cost pressures."

As you know, school districts in B.C. must adopt a balanced budget for the upcoming school year by June 30, 2022. This year, boards of education are tasked with developing a budget and making decisions that impact students while not being provided with adequate funding. Similarly, the most recent estimated operating grants also do not acknowledge concerns around inflation, leading to significant concerns from our member boards of education as they plan for the upcoming year.

The 2022/23 estimated operating grant allocation has provided no additional funds for districts to use for negotiated collective agreement costs. We understand that the intention is to provide funding once changes to collective agreements are ratified, but we remain concerned as these amounts have not always covered the actual costs for our members. As mentioned above, there have also been no additional funds included in the same estimated operating grant allocation to fund incremental payroll costs or inflationary costs. These costs are high, and the lack of extra funds does not reflect the current economic climate's impacts on school districts.



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We ask that your ministries collaborate on a solution to fully fund all incremental payroll and inflationary costs that have not been covered in the K-12 estimated operating grants announced for the 2022/23 school year. We also request that upcoming per-pupil funding be adjusted as the current allocation remains unchanged from the amounts received in 2021/22. To assist boards of education with their work of developing a balanced budget, we request that you notify all 60 school districts before May 31 2022, of changes in the K-12 estimated operating grant for the 2022/23 school year.

Thank you for considering the needs of our membership. The role that boards of education have in responding to the needs of their communities is crucial, and we trust you will continue to support their efforts by giving full consideration to the propositions outlined in this letter. I look forward to hearing from you and finding a path forward that best supports boards in their work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Broady

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202218.1

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

CC: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care
Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care
BCSTA member boards of education
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA
BCSTA Board of Directors