



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

May 26, 2023

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

Dear Minister Singh,

Subject: Inclusive Education Guidelines

During the British Columbia School Trustees Association's 2023 annual general meeting, our membership, which includes all 60 of the province's boards of education, passed the following resolution:

*"That BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to update its inclusive education resource titled [*Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines*](#), and release the updated version to school boards."*

As stated in the enclosed motion rationale, and highlighted during the debate on the floor during our meeting, the [*Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines*](#) document is considerably outdated, having not been altered since 2016. In the seven years since its initial release, we have experienced significant changes in public education, both in our understanding of differently abled and diverse young people and our expectations for and from educators and school leaders.

We understand that your ministry has been actively working on updating the document and ask that this work be further prioritized so that we may focus on providing more inclusive schools today rather than tomorrow. Boards of education specifically seek a regularly updated, 'living' document that reflects the current expectations and understandings and includes considerations based on lived experiences. In many respects, we believe it is more valuable to provide boards of education with a resource that can be continuously modified and added to rather than aim for a conclusive document that will, potentially, become dated upon publication.



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Thank you for taking the time to review this call for updated inclusive education guidelines. Prioritizing the release of this document is crucial as we continue to create more inclusive and supportive learning environments in B.C.'s classrooms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" and last name "Broady" clearly distinguishable.

Carolyn Broady

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202315

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

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