



October 1, 2024

Ref: 301831

Carolyn Broady, President  
British Columbia School Trustees Association  
**Email: [cbroady@bcsta.org](mailto:cbroady@bcsta.org)**

Dear Carolyn Broady:

Thank you for your letter of September 16, 2024, addressed to the Premier of British Columbia, regarding funding for temporary resident registrations enrolled after September 30. As a provincial election has been called, I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond.

Operating grant funding to school districts is at its highest level ever – over \$7 billion is estimated to be allocated for the 2024/25 school year. Since 2016/17, total public school operating grants have increased by \$2.1 billion (or 43 percent).

In the 2023/24 school year, \$71.8 million in funding was provided for post-September enrolment. Included in this total is funding for new course enrolments in Online Learning and continuing education, as well as funding for newcomer refugees who enrolled after the September enrolment count, and for post-September enrolment growth in the number of students with disabilities or diverse abilities.

Historically, much fewer FTE school-age students are enrolled in standard schools in February compared to the previous September. The Ministry of Education and Child Care has opted not to adjust operating grant funding based on the February count for standard schools, as it would result in a recovery of funds (decreased funding) for a majority of districts that experience a decline in FTE enrolment as the school year progresses and that would not have the ability to make staffing and operational changes while the school year is in progress.

In 2022/23, school districts collectively enrolled almost 1,300 fewer standard school FTE in February 2023, than they did in September 2022. This is based on an increase of 3,660 FTE (excluding newcomer refugees) that could generate additional funding combined with a decrease of 4,950 FTE where funding would be recovered. These enrolment changes would result in a \$5.1 million net loss in operating grant funding for the K-12 public education system.

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Additional student FTE that impact classroom organization as a result of class size and/or composition requirements are already funded through the Classroom Enhancement Fund based on districts' reported remedy costs.

I appreciate the efforts boards of education, senior staff and education stakeholders are making to achieve balanced budgets.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J McCrea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jennifer McCrea  
Acting Deputy Minister