

# K-12 Public Education Funding Model Review

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

### Purpose

Ministry of Education and Boards of Education have shared accountability for student success within the BC K-12 public education sector, and the funding allocation system distributes available funding in an equitable manner that supports continuous improvement of student outcomes.

### Principles

<i>Responsive</i>	Allocates available resources amongst Boards of Education in consideration of unique local and provincial operational requirements
<i>Equitable</i>	Facilitates access to comparable levels of educational services and opportunities for individual students across the province
<i>Stable and Predictable</i>	Supports strategic, multi-year planning for educational programming and school district operations
<i>Flexible</i>	Respects the autonomy of, and does not unnecessarily restrict, individual Boards of Education in the spending of their allocations to further student success
<i>Transparent</i>	Calculates funding using a clear and transparent methodology
<i>Accountable</i>	Allocates resources to Boards of Education in the most efficient manner, and ensures that resources provided are being utilized as intended

*These principles are to be included in the Funding Allocation System Manual and to be incorporated into a broader Financial Framework for Enhancing Student Success.*

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#### Details

##### *Responsive*

Allocates resources amongst Boards of Education in consideration of unique local and provincial operational requirements

- a. Distribution of funding between Boards of Education should enable student success across the province;
- b. Funding allocations should reflect individual school district operational requirements; and
- c. Funding allocations should consider educational requirements established by the Ministry of Education, either provincially or for individual Boards of Education.

##### *Equitable*

Facilitates access to comparable levels of educational services and opportunities for individual students across the province

- a. Allocations should help ensure that individual students have access to comparable types of programs and services, regardless of where they live;
- b. Allocations should ensure that students requiring additional supports have access to services that further their educational success, regardless of where they live;
- c. Allocations should support measured improvements to student success; and
- d. Funding should be distributed consistently amongst districts, where there are provincial standards or programming required by the Ministry of Education.

##### *Stable and Predictable*

Supports strategic, multi-year planning for educational programming and school district operations

- a. Annual funding amounts are confirmed as early as possible to support the annual budgeting process;
- b. Where possible, future year funding forecasts are communicated to Boards of Education, to facilitate notional long-term planning; and
- c. Any major changes in the funding allocation model, or in the services that Boards of Education must provide, should contain an adjustment period and/or transitional funding

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arrangements.

#### *Flexible*

Respects the autonomy of, and does not unnecessarily restrict, individual Boards of Education in the spending of their allocations to further student success

- a. Enables Boards of Education to implement local approaches in delivering educational services to students;
- b. Spending restrictions placed on Boards of Education should be limited, except where required to meet provincial education requirements and/or good financial governance;
- c. Special grants should be exceptional and time-limited; and
- d. Boards of Education should be provided with an explanation of the intent and guiding principles behind any targeted or restricted funding.

#### *Transparent*

Is calculated using a clear and transparent methodology

- a. The allocation of funding by the Ministry should seek to be understandable both to those administering the funds and to the public, toward improved public confidence;
- b. The funding distribution model should be as simple and transparent as possible, without foregoing other principles; and
- c. There should be a clear understanding of when funds are general, special, or targeted, and of any associated reporting requirements.

#### *Accountable*

Allocates resources to Boards of Education in the most efficient manner, and ensures that resources provided are being utilized as intended

- a. The funding distribution model makes efficient use of the available funding envelope and recognizes that Boards of Education have a responsibility to use that funding in as effective a way as possible, for the benefit of individual students; and
- b. There should be clear reporting, both provincially and locally, on how funds are being allocated and spent.