

**From:** Jason Reid  
**To:** [K-12 Funding Review EDUC:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Foweraker, Jonathan EDUC:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Funding Model Review Feedback from SD63  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 2, 2018 10:07:38 AM

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Good Morning,

Yesterday we (Trustees and senior staff) met with our partner groups to review the Funding Model Review Discussion Paper and submissions provided by partner associations (BCASBO and BCSTA). This was the first opportunity to arrange a meeting with all that needed to be involved. The purpose of the discussion was to consider if there was anything we felt was missing or if there was anything we felt needed further emphasis. Out of that discussion we identified the 5 themes/items below that we wanted to be considered by the Funding Model Review Panel:

1. Providing for Basic Inflation should not be considered "additional funding". Provincial GDP and revenues grow each year, in part, due to inflation and this growth needs to flow through to program funding to ensure that programs can be maintained. When funding rates do not fully reflect inflationary pressure it means that, in real terms, funding for educational programs is being cut each year and the "pie" allocated to the system becomes progressively smaller.
2. Government Priorities and Program Objectives need to be funded. When expectations placed on the school system change because of a new government priority, that new priority needs to be costed and adequately funded. School Districts cannot be reasonably expected to absorb the cost of expectations that only increase with each year. There are a number of important priorities where the funding needed to properly implement is not being provided. This includes: curriculum implementation, learning innovation (technology), aboriginal achievement, adult learning, achievement for children in care, and support for students with unique needs. The current system of designations does not reflect the range of needs and funding is generally inadequate. Funding for mental health needs is particularly inadequate.
3. Provincial Inequity - For years schools districts have been encouraged and forced to pursue revenue generating initiatives (as "real" funding declined with every year). This has led to significant inequity in the services provided between school districts and between schools (within a district) depending on a district's or school's ability to generate revenue. School districts should be funded to provide the basic educational services expected by citizens and should not have to generate revenues or fund raise to meet basic requirements.
4. FTE versus Headcount - While funding on an FTE basis generally makes sense, there does need to be a mechanism to recognize the higher cost of providing services where headcount is high in relation to FTE and where students need to be supported in more than one location.

5. Funding for Private Schools - to the extent that the public school system requires funding for students with unique needs, and those same needs are not present to the same extent in the private school system, funding in the private system should not be pegged to the public school system.

Best Regards,

Jason

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