



Annual Meeting on Transportation to Public Schools

BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA):
Supporting First Nation Student Success

May 28, 2026: 10:00 am -11:00 am

Meeting Procedures and Resources



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- Please display your full name and First Nation or school district number while participating in the meeting
- Your microphone will be muted automatically to minimize background noise
- We encourage questions at the end of each section of the presentation via the “Chat” function or, if you wish to ask your question verbally during the Q&A period, please use the “Raise Hand” function under Reactions and, if possible, turn on your camera



Recognition of the Territory

Meeting Overview



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1. Context
2. Funding available for transportation (To/From)
3. 2026/2027 Joint First Nation Student Transportation Planning
4. 2025/2026 Reporting
5. Questions and Closing Remarks



Context

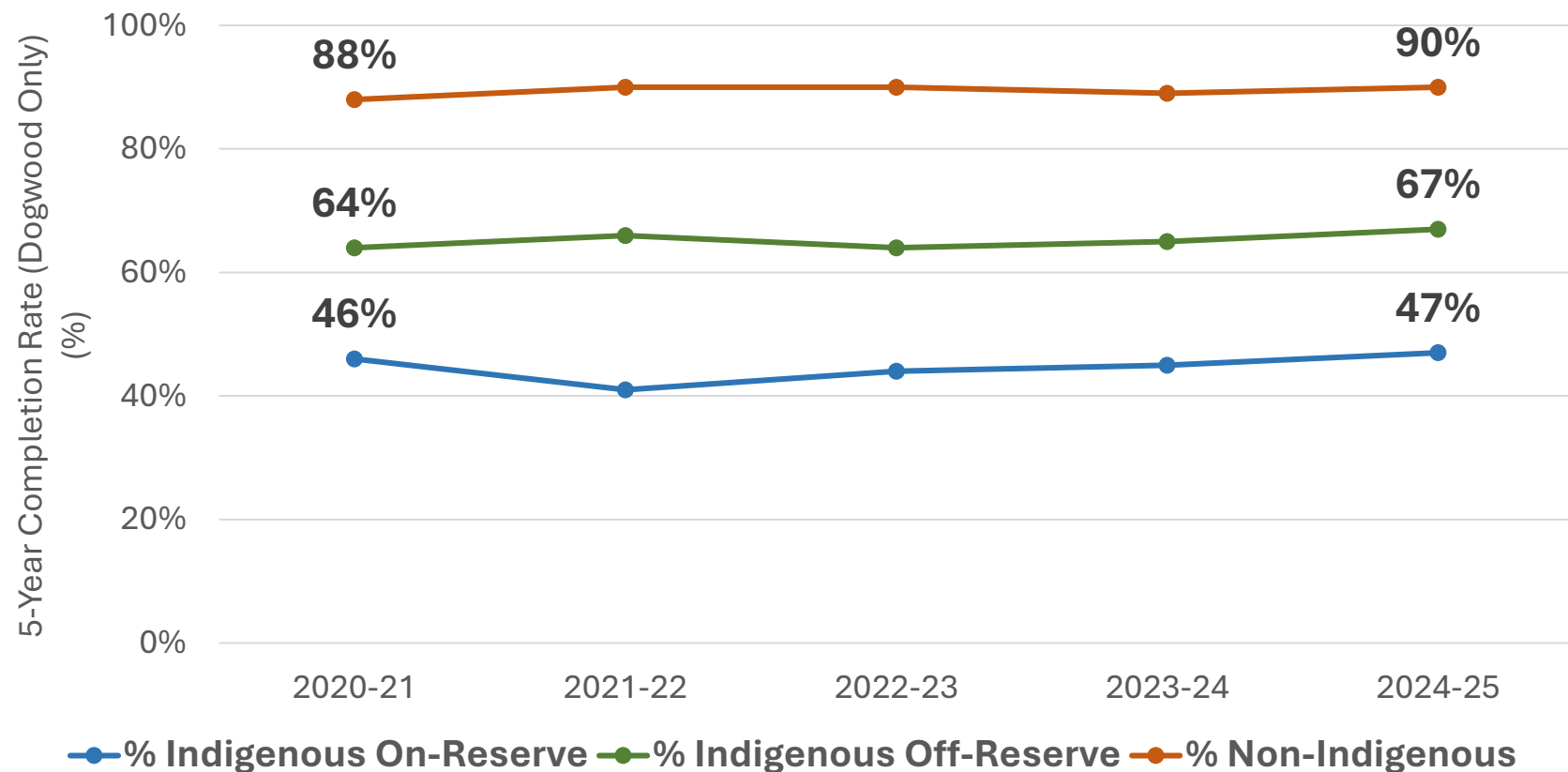
Number of Learners



Indigenous students represent approximately 12% of all learners in British Columbia.

| | All Indigenous | Indigenous On-Reserve | Indigenous Off-Reserve |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2020/21 | 75,059 | 7,754 | 67,305 |
| 2021/22 | 76,217 | 7,992 | 68,225 |
| 2022/23 | 75,617 | 8,074 | 67,543 |
| 2023/24 | 74,484 | 8,127 | 66,357 |
| 2024/25 | 72,414 | 8,065 | 64,349 |

5-Year Completion Rate (Dogwood Only)



Student Absence Rates (Grades K-7)



Chronically Absent Student Rate: the rate of total students who miss 10% or more of scheduled learning experience within a given school year.

| | 2024/25 |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Indigenous, On-Reserve | 80% |
| Indigenous, Off-Reserve | 60% |
| Non-Indigenous | 40% |

Student Absence Rates (Grades 8-12)



Chronically Absent Student Rate: the rate of total students who miss 10% or more of scheduled learning experience within a given school year.

| | 2024/25 |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Indigenous, On-Reserve | 89% |
| Indigenous, Off-Reserve | 76% |
| Non-Indigenous | 56% |

Background



- In 2024/25, approximately \$140 million was spent by school districts on transportation of the 64,275 students in the public system who require transportation to school.
- The BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) between the Province of British Columbia (BC), the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) sets the foundation for further growth and changes to support the enhancement of the B.C. public education system.
- Since 2018/19, Boards of Education and First Nations have been co-developing Joint Transportation Plans to address on-reserve First Nation Student transportation. The Joint Plans were to be informed by criteria established by the BCTEA Parties.
- Transportation funding is intended to be supplemental to already available funding e.g. Student Location Factor, Supplementary Student Location Factor, Student Transportation Fund, other Provincial general operating grants and proxies for transportation funding included in the First Nation Student Rate – to meet First Nation Students’ transportation needs identified through the co-development of Joint Plans.

Guiding Principles for Developing Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans



1. The Board of Education and First Nation identify transportation needs of students enrolled in BC public schools, respecting parental choice
2. Safety is paramount in all planning and decisions
3. Transportation is available for extracurricular activities and sports/sporting events*
4. There are no walk limits
5. The shortest ride possible
6. Wherever possible, no highway pick-ups/drop-offs
7. Establish communications protocols
8. Ensure drivers receive professional development
9. Criminal record checks required
10. Changes to the joint plan through written agreement with timely notice to parents

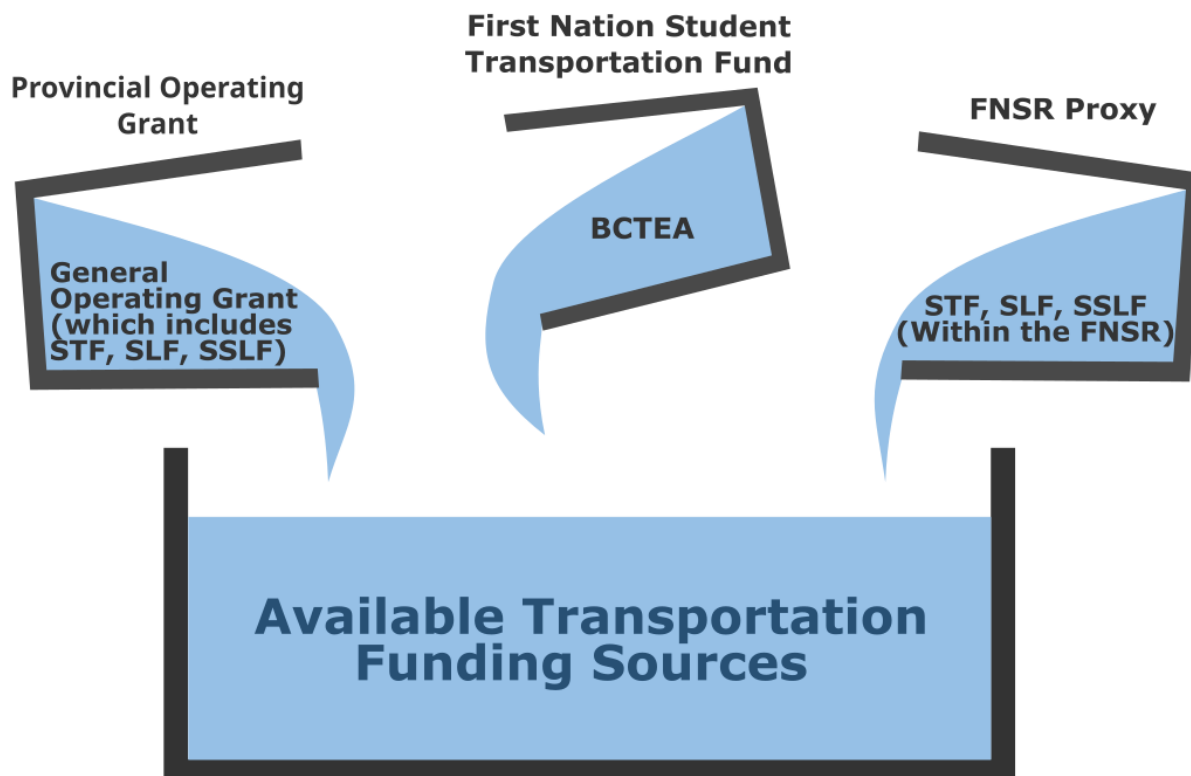
*This principle is subject to funding constraints.

Source: [BCTEA-Guiding-Principles-for-Transportation.pdf](#)



Funding available for transportation (To/From)

Available Transportation Funding Sources



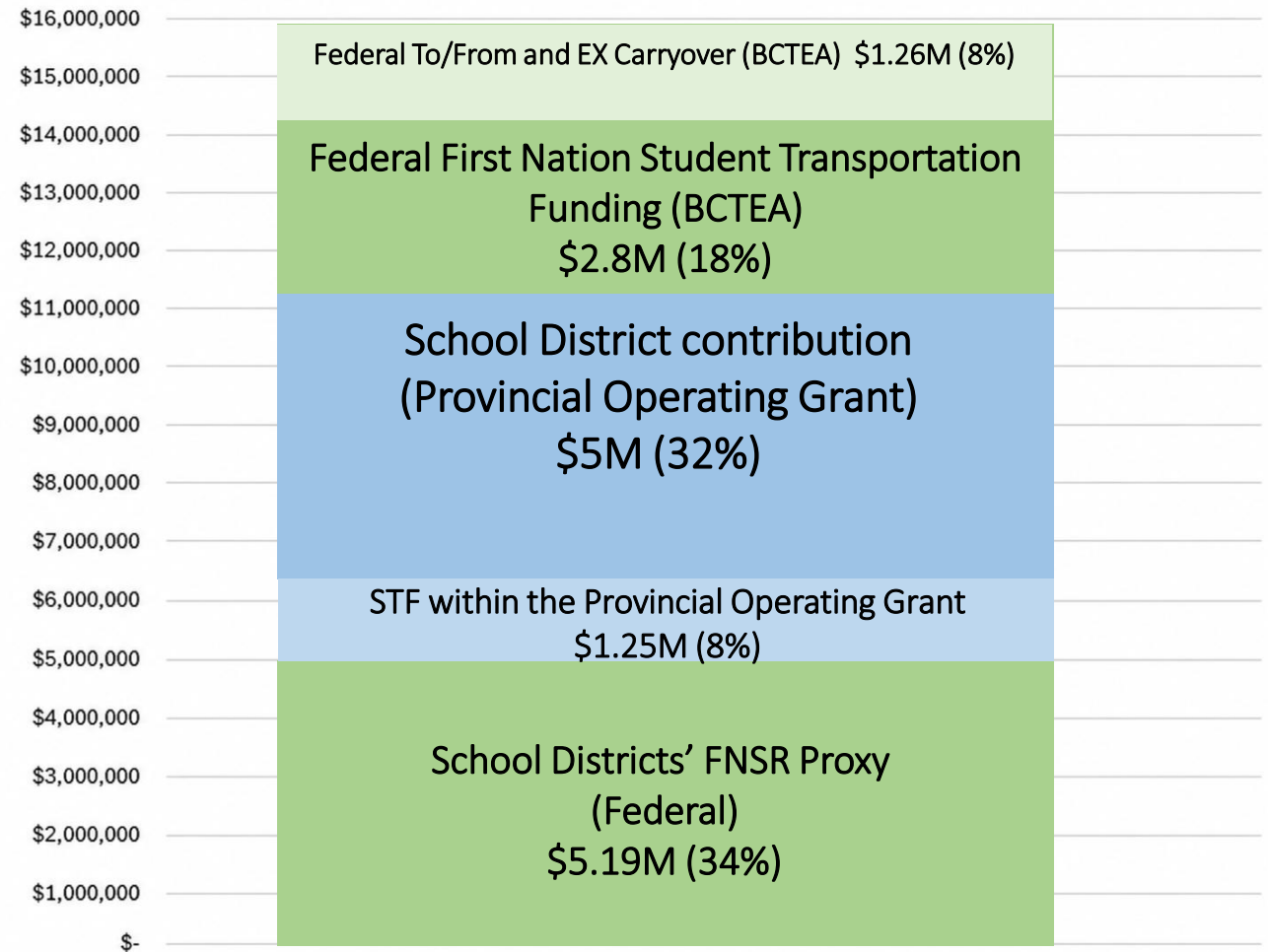
- FNSR Proxy
 - Student Location Factor (SLF), Supplemental Student Location Factor (SSLF) and Student Transportation Fund (STF) included in the First Nation Student Rate (FNSR) is the Proxy for Transportation funding
 - This is the minimum amount of FNSR funding that should be used for transportation of First Nations Students living on reserve
- Provincial general operating grant funding including
 - Student Transportation Fund (\$15.4M in 2025-2026), SLF, SSLF
- BCTEA First Nation Student Transportation funding by Canada (\$3.8M)
 - Intended to be supplemental to existing funding sources

Total Spent on First Nation Student Transportation To/From School (2024/25)



The total spent on First Nation Student transportation To/From School was \$15.8 million

Source: Data as reported on Joint Plans and Revenue and Spending Reports



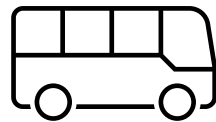
BCTEA First Nation Student Transportation



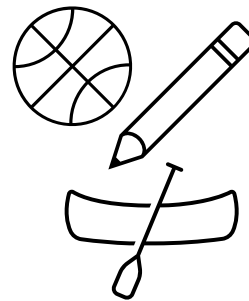
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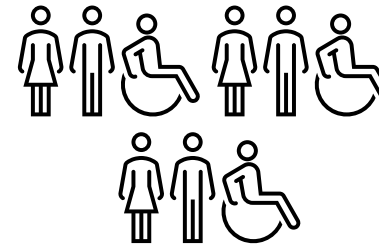
Every year approximately 160+ Joint Plans co-developed & reviewed



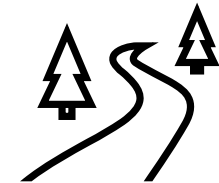
In 2025/26, Joint Plan approvals for To/From totalled over \$4.4M million



A total of \$795K was allocated for Extracurricular



Over 6,800 First Nation Students included in a BCTEA Joint Plan



Students transported approximately 10,500 kms to school

BCTEA Transportation Funding - Positive Feedback



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“Bus route reduces barriers for families and students living on reserve in getting to and from their schools as the location of the reserve is not within walking distance to our schools.”

“The additional bus route allowed for a later pick up with door-to-door service for vulnerable students with the intention of improving attendance and building positive relationships with the families and community.”

"Transportation to cultural land-based programs for students has improved attendance, engagement in learning and provided credits required for graduation."

“Funding supported students getting to/from schools quickly and safely. Inclement weather, along with the presence of high numbers of bears and cougars along route travelled by students walking means this is deemed a necessary route.”

“Attendance has improved. We have extended a few bus runs, eliminating or reducing walking distances to bus stops and ensuring that the stops are in safe locations.”

"We were able to support families by adding two additional routes to our transportation schedule. These routes were able to provide better and more comprehensive services."



Questions?



2026/2027 Joint First Nation Student Transportation Planning

2026/27 Transportation Planning Updates – Joint Plans



For the 2026/27 school year, an interim approach will be implemented:

- The Ministry requires boards of education to annually co-develop or review a Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan (Joint Plan) with each First Nation needing transportation for their on-reserve students attending a BC Public School.
- Joint Plans are to be jointly signed off
- A Joint Plan template is available to support planning discussions and document transportation services.
- Joint Plans do not need to be submitted to the Ministry.

2026/27 Transportation Planning Updates – Funding



- In this transition year, BCTEA First Nation Student Transportation funding (\$3.8M) is based on approved amounts from the 2025/26 school year for To/From school transportation.
- Service agreements between school districts and First Nations providing transportation services, with priority given on To/From services, should not be impacted.
- Other sources of funding, such as other available provincial operating grant funding, may be needed to support parental assistance and extracurricular transportation.
- The federal First Nation Student Transportation funding will be used to enhance services that are currently funded by the school district or create new services as identified by the First Nation and school district.

2026/27 Transportation Planning Updates – Funding Flow



- The Ministry will allocate the First Nation Student Transportation funding to school districts, based on 2025/26 To/From approved amounts, as a special grant that is restricted and accounted for as a special purpose fund under section 115(a) of the School Act.
- These funds may only be used for the transportation needs of First Nation Students attending BC public schools with an annual Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan.

2026/27 Transportation Planning Updates – Carryover



- Carryover from funds issued in 2025/26 or from previous years will be deducted from the amount transferred to each school district.
- Special Supports funding is eligible, however funding is limited. If there is carryover funding remaining after audited financial statements are reviewed, additional funding may be available in the early fall.
- Carryover funding will be allocated based on 2025/26 Special Supports approved funding.

2026/27 Transportation Planning Updates – Eligible Expenses



- Federal First Nation Student Transportation funding is to supplement the transportation costs of First Nation Students To/From BC Public Schools.
- Eligible expenses include bussing, bus passes, and water taxis.
- First Nation Students who have to cross bodies of water to attend school are accounted for within the Joint Plans received in 2025/26.
- The operating costs of First Nations currently providing transportation services are already accounted for within the approved Joint Plans.

2026/27 Transportation Planning Updates – First Nation Schools of Choice



- As per the School Act section 74.2 First Nations can designate a public school of choice for on-reserve First Nation Students.
- There is no additional funding to accommodate transportation to First Nation Schools of Choice. School districts and First Nations should consider the use of existing funding sources including:
 - Provincial Operating Grants
 - Provincial Student Transportation Fund (\$15.4M)
 - Transportation Proxy (included in the First Nation Student Rate)
 - Federal First Nation Student Transportation funding (\$3.8M)

2026/27 Transportation Planning Updates – Ineligible Expenses



- In line with previous years, administrative fees, courtesy rider fees, accessories (e.g., cameras on school buses and water taxis, bus driver cell phone or radio), bus driver training and professional development, capital purchases (e.g., bus shelters, buses, boats, etc.), transportation to dual credit courses/programs, and field trips are not eligible expenses.
- Parental (transportation) assistance requests and transportation to extracurricular may be approved and funded by school districts through existing funding sources such as Operating Grants (e.g. Student Transportation Fund) or Other Grants (e.g. CommunityLINK).
- First Nations with Students in approved accommodations receive federal funding from Indigenous Services Canada to cover costs for bus passes, seasonal travel, and travel chaperones where appropriate.



Questions?



2025/2026 Reporting

2025-26 BCTEA First Nation Transportation Report



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- A simplified 2025-26 BCTEA First Nation Transportation Report template will be submitted to the Ministry to report on spending and carry over by funding source.
- School districts must share their report to be signed by all First Nations served to confirm that they have received the report (signature does not imply agreement).
- In lieu of signatures, email confirmation that the report has been shared with all parties will be accepted.
- Co-signed 2025-26 BCTEA First Nation Transportation Report will be submitted to the Ministry by email at bctea@gov.bc.ca by **October 1st, 2026**.

2025-26 BCTEA First Nation Transportation Report, cont'd



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- Any remaining portion of the funds are to be used for transportation of First Nation Students attending BC Public Schools in the following year.
- **Note:** Reporting requirements included in the 2025-26 BCTEA First Nation Transportation Report template are in addition to the Ministry's regular financial reporting.

Important Dates



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May 28th, 2026

2026/27 Annual Meeting on Transportation (AMT)

To be announced

2026/27 federal First Nation Student Transportation funding allocation amounts will be shared

October 1st, 2026

2025/26 Revenue and Spending Report submission deadline (joint sign-off required)

October 1st, 2026

School district financial statements due to the Ministry

Thank you for your participation!



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For questions about First Nation Student Joint Transportation Plan requirements or related materials:

School districts may contact:

Ministry of Education and
Child Care
BCTEA@gov.bc.ca

First Nations may contact:

First Nations
Education Steering
Committee
BCTEA@fnesc.ca

OR

Indigenous Services
Canada
BC Education Team
bceducation@sac-isc.gc.ca