

## What is the First Nations Student Rate (FNSR)?

The FNSR is based on the average funding amount provided for a student attending a BC Public School in a school district. The FNSR is calculated annually by the Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) in consultation with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), pursuant to BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) Section 8.0 of Schedule J, and it is based on the funding paid by the Ministry to the boards of education pursuant to sections 106.3, 106.4, and 115 of the School Act. This rate is used to calculate:

- The amount of funding from ISC to First Nations for students ordinarily resident on-reserve attending a BC public school or an off-reserve independent school
- Reciprocal tuition for First Nation schools

The FNSR amount is the same for all school types in the same school district area (public schools, off-reserve independent school, reciprocal tuition for First Nation schools). The factors that determine the FNSR are the total applicable funding based on amounts from the Ministry and the student full-time equivalent (FTE) as of September in that school year.

$$\frac{\textit{All applicable funding}}{\textit{All Student FTE in September}} = \textit{FNSR}$$

Annual changes in funding amounts or student FTE will affect the rate.

## The FNSR is a funding rate, not a spending rate

The FNSR is calculated using a combination of funding amounts for a variety of program areas. However, *spending does not have to match the funding amounts provided for the specific program areas.*

Public Boards of Education, non-First Nation independent School Authorities (including private schools), and First Nations School Governing Authorities have the discretion to allocate funds and establish budgets according to the unique and specific needs of their schools and students.

## What factors are included in the FNSR?

All operating or special purpose grants that meet the following criteria were included in the FNSR:

- Allocated for K-12 students at a public school
- Available to all school districts
- Applied on a per-student basis, according to program criteria

The inclusion/exclusion of other grants that did not meet the criteria above were further discussed by the Tripartite parties. The following items were included in the sum of “all applicable funding” for 2023/2024, as shown in the columns on the attached chart.

- **District Operating Funding Allocation.** This factor includes:
  - Total Enrolment Based Funding: based on student FTE to support operating costs and local student populations. This includes funds to support: students with mild intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, or mental illness; students who are gifted; and students who require moderate behaviour support, learning assistance, speech-language and/or physiotherapy, assessment and hospital homebound services.
  - Inclusive Education (Special Needs -L1, L2, L3) supplementary funding: based on September student count for inclusive education: Level 1 (Physically Dependent or Deafblind); Level 2 (Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability, Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment, Visual Impairment, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Autism Spectrum Disorder); Level 3 (Intensive Behaviour Interventions or Serious Mental Illness). Note that for on-reserve students attending public schools who meet the eligibility

- requirements for inclusive education categories, ISC and ECC provide 100% of the inclusive education funding: ISC funds the FNSR portion and ECC funds the balance to school districts.
- Enrolment Decline: to assist districts with a supplement if/when current year's student enrolment drops when compared to the year before and/or three years before.
  - English Language Learning: for students whose primary language(s) is/are other than English / students who speak variations of English in the home and may therefore require additional services to develop their individual potential within BC's school system.
  - Indigenous Education: enhanced funding for school age students of Indigenous ancestry to provide culturally-appropriate educational programs and services to support their success.
  - Adult Education: for non-graduated adult students taking courses toward the British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) or the Adult Graduation Diploma (Adult Dogwood).
  - Equity of Opportunity Supplement: to support additional services by recognizing children and youth in care, children and youth receiving non-clinical mental health supports, and low-income families.
  - Supplement for Salary Differential: additional funding to districts with higher average teacher salaries.
  - Supplement for Unique Geographic Factors: factors in this supplement include 1) Small Community Supplement, 2) Low Enrolment Factor, 3) Rural factor, 4) Climate factor, 5) Sparseness Factor, 6) Student Location Factor, and 7) Supplemental Student Location Factor
  - Funding Protection: to ensure that districts are protected against any funding decline larger than 1.5% when compared to the previous September.
  - Curriculum and Learning Support Fund: to assist districts with implementing initiatives as part of the provincial curriculum.
- **Next Generation Network (NGN):** to provide connectivity and firewall security services to public schools to enable equitable, reliable, and secure access to digital services.
  - **Classroom Enhancement Fund:** for the implementation of the memorandum of agreement with the BC Teachers' Federation at the district level, which is determined for each school district based on class size, composition limits, and specialist teacher ratios.
  - **Learning Improvement Fund:** for the hiring of additional Educational Assistants (EAs), additional teacher assistants and other para-professionals to provide services to students.
  - **Annual Facility Grant (AFG):** for annual facility projects required to maintain facility assets through their anticipated economic life (operating portion only).
  - **Pay Equity:** a special grant to reflect the principle that workers who perform work of equal value, though not identical or similar work, should be paid equally.
  - **Student Transportation Fund:** to assist with improving transportation services for students, which can be used to reduce or eliminate bus fees; enhance safety and services to all students, including service improvements that will benefit First Nations students; reduce ride times; increase the efficiency of transportation services; and support affordability for families.
  - **Mental Health in Schools:** a base allocation of funds pro-rated based on the total student FTE.
  - **MyEdBC:** for implementation and management of the common student information service used by school districts to manage student enrolment, demographics, programs, courses, schedules, attendance, achievement, individual education plans, and more.
  - **Support Staff Benefits:** funds put aside to standardize benefits for support staff.
  - **CommunityLINK:** to support the academic achievement and social functioning of vulnerable students through programs and services that include breakfast, lunch and snack programs, academic supports, counselling, youth workers and after-school programs.
  - **FSA Scorer Grant:** to subsidize the costs of FSA marking sessions.

- **Feeding Futures Fund:** to help school districts purchase food and hire dedicated staff to provide healthy meals and snacks to students.
- **Labour Settlement Funding:** Following the ratification of collective agreements, Labour Settlement Funding for Cost of Living Adjustment, Teacher & Support Staff Benefit Enhancements, and Management Salary Increases.