



March 14, 2003

Our Ref. 81345

To: All Superintendents of Schools  
All Secretary-Treasurers

**Re: Estimated Operating Grants for 2003/04**

The estimates for the 2003/04 operating grants have been completed for the 60 school boards. These allocations are based on the provincial allocation of \$3.79 billion that was announced on January 31, 2003, and on projected enrolment of 567,030 school-aged FTEs for the 2003/04 school year. For the school year 2004/05, the grant will be \$3.84 billion, an increase of \$50 million, and for 2005/06 school year, the grant will be \$3.86 billion, an increase of \$70 million over 2003/04.

School Year	Operating Grants (\$ Billion)
2003/04	\$3.79
2004/05	\$3.84
2005/06	\$3.86

**CHANGES TO THE FUNDING ALLOCATION SYSTEM**

Detailed information on the changes to the Funding Allocation System is included in the Operating Grants Manual, which is available on the Ministry's website at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/k12funding/funding/03-04/>

Changes from 2002/03 are itemized below.

**Leases**

Beginning in 2002/03, funding is being provided to School Boards separate from the Funding Allocation System for Operating Grants. This additional grant is known as an Operating Supplement for Facility Leases.

Annual funding for Facility Leases is determined on a district-by-district basis, and is based on September 30 school-aged enrolment and school facility capacities.

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**PLN and Learning Resources**

Funding for PLN support will continue. As these funds are managed at the provincial level on the behalf of school boards, they will no longer be shown on the operating grant summary sheets that each board receives.

The portion of the Learning Resources money that went to school boards has been merged into the basic allocation. The portion that is managed provincially will continue and will no longer be referred to on the school board summary sheets.

**Grant Recalculation**

Operating grants will be finalized in Fall 2003, once September 30, 2003 enrolment is confirmed.

The Budget Instruction Manual for 2003/04 is being provided to school districts as a separate document.

If you have any questions about the funding allocations, please contact Marguerite Stone or Michael Lebrun at (250) 356-2586.

Yours sincerely,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED BY*

Keith Miller  
Director

Attachment