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

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

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

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

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

Transparent Calculates funding using a clear and transparent methodology

Accountable 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
**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.