

School District No. 74 (Gold Trail)

School District No. 74 (Gold Trail)
PO Box 250, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0
Phone: 250 453 9101 FAX: 250 453 2425
www.sd74.bc.ca



April 30, 2018

Ministry of Education
Resource Management Division
PO Box 9151, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria BC V8W 9H1

Attention: Jonathan Foweraker

Dear Mr. Foweraker,

Re: Public Education Funding Model Review

The Gold Trail Board of Education has discussed the Funding Model review at their recent Open Board meetings. The Gold Trail district is located in the interior of BC and provides educational services to several municipalities and Indigenous communities in the region. With a student population of 1,110 FTE, with 62% of students being of Indigenous ancestry, the district's rural schools are an important part of the communities they serve.

The Board identified several factors for consideration during the funding model review process:

- Board autonomy and flexibility in the allocation of funds needs to be respected. The current Unique Geographic Factor (UGF) needs to be maintained in order to recognize the many differences between districts throughout the province. The UGF provides a measure of equity for all districts.
- Adequate transportation funding is essential to ensure students have access to educational opportunities, including after school programs and extra-curricular activities.
- The social emotional needs of students are increasing and require the additional allocation of funds to ensure a supportive learning environment for all students.
- Connectivity and access to technology are important in order to provide a quality educational experience. The costs are high in this area and increasing.
- The new funding model must be mindful and recognize our collective responsibility to provide a quality, equitable education system for Indigenous students.
- Capital funds must be allocated throughout the province and the necessity of boards using operating dollars to support capital projects should be minimized. An appropriate learning environment is essential and influences positive student outcomes yet many projects are being completed using operating dollars.

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To: Jonathan Foweraker, Ministry of Education Resource Management Division

From: Co-Chairs Trill and Adrian, Board of Education

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The Board appreciates the complexities in providing an equitable funding formula in such a diverse province and appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the panel.

Yours truly,

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Vicky Trill
Co-Chair



Valerie Adrian
Co-Chair

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