

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past year, representatives from the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA), BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) and BC Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO) have worked with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and Office of the Auditor General to develop financial governance and accountability guidance material and procedures for the K–12 Public Education Sector.

The purpose is to build on the existing financial accountability practices exhibited by the sector and provide guidance to boards of education as well as support materials for senior district staff and trustees to improve on this important work.

Our original intent was to provide these materials and procedures to school districts to use during the 2017/18 budget process so that you could be prepared to develop and approve related policies. In recognition of the significant work currently underway at school districts, we have decided to release the material and required procedures as advisory only at this time so that boards and senior staff can begin the discussion of future required policies. While early adoption of the related policies is encouraged, the target date for boards to implement the policies is June 30, 2018 so that they are in place for the 2018–19 school year.

Your associations will also support the implementation of these Financial Governance and Accountability materials, including working sessions during upcoming events. The Ministry of Education will be providing an overview of the materials and requirements during the upcoming BCSTA AGM, which will be open to registered superintendents and secretary treasurers as well as trustees.

The BCSTA maintains a database of school district policies which you may want to access as a resource in developing policies. This resource provides up-to-date policies provided to BCSTA by BC boards of education. BCSTA works with participating districts to keep this resource up to date. However, in some instances there may be more current versions that are not yet in the system. The database can be accessed through this link: <https://dsweb.bcsta.org/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-9637>.

We are confident that the implementation of these materials over time will improve the financial accountability and governance practices in our sector. We are pleased to provide these materials for use in your district.

Sincerely,



Teresa Rezanoff, President
BCSTA



Tom Longridge, President
BCSSA



Kelvin Stretch, President
BCASBO