



# Memorandum to the Board of Education

## Meeting in Public`

**FROM:** Peter Dubinsky, Superintendent  
**DATE:** October 16, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Affordability Fund

**For Information**

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### Introduction

On August 29, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Child Care (the “MECC”) announced a new one-time funding for school districts in a new fund: The Student and Family Affordability Fund (the “Affordability Fund”). The District was allocated one-time funding of \$250,000, to be used in the 2022-2023 year.

### Background/Information

Please see attached bulletin from the Deputy Minister of the MECC, which provides details as to what expenses are eligible to be paid from the Affordability Fund.

Also attached is an initial draft of budget allocations for the District’s use of its Affordability Fund funding. The District will continue to consult internally and with stakeholders to determine appropriate use of the funds within the parameters set forth by the MECC.

The budget allocations for the Affordability Fund will be captured in the Board’s 2022-2023 Amended Budget, which is due in February, 2023.

# Deputy Minister's Bulletin

Ministry of Education and Child Care



Student and Family Affordability Fund – Instructions to School Districts

August 29, 2022

The Ministry is allocating \$60 million in one-time funding to school districts to increase food security for students and their families, and to support students, parents, and guardians with affordability concerns.

[District by district allocations](#) have been announced. This one-time funding is being disbursed under section 115(1)(a) of the *School Act*, should be treated as a Special Purpose Fund on the school district financial statements, and should be fully spent by June 30, 2023.

The funding can be used to:

1. Improve students' access to nutritional food / meals, before, during and after the school day
2. Directly offset costs to parents, guardians, and students, such as school supplies or other cost pressures they are facing using existing mechanisms such as hardship policies

## Spending on Food Security

- Spending by the district on Food Security should be in **addition** to any planned or budgeted spending on food and meals programs.
- Districts are encouraged to use healthy, local and/or B.C. food where possible and to utilize existing processes and providers (including not-for-profits).
- Funding can be spent to:
  - Increase nutritional opportunities for students throughout the day
  - Provide nutritional food and meal support to additional students
  - Provide additional food and meal supports to students with dependent children where appropriate

## Spending on Family Assistance

- Spending by the district must directly offset costs for parents, guardians, and students and be **additional** to any planned or budgeted spending for hardship or family supports
- Funding use includes, but is not limited to:
  - Providing basic school supplies that might otherwise be purchased by parents, guardians, and students (e.g., pens, paper)
  - Waiving education-related fees (e.g., additional supplies for shop, culinary and craft classes, workbooks, camps, field trips, relevant cultural events, other student society meetings including those related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and instrument and equipment fees or other fees charged by school districts)
  - Supporting with clothing/footwear required for school sports and other school activities

## Local Processes

- School districts must engage with Indigenous rightsholders (e.g., through their Indigenous Education Council) to determine any unique needs of Indigenous students.
- School districts must use the funding in as flexible, private and stigma free manner as possible, utilizing existing hardship fund processes with additional flexibility. Boards should use this opportunity to review their hardship policies to include stigma- and barrier-free access to supports.

- District Parent Advisory Councils should be included in the process, and information on the support available should be communicated to all school staff (specifically counsellors) as they interact daily with students.
- Boards should also engage with equity-deserving communities to ensure that the unique needs of all diverse student populations are met.

### Reporting

- Reporting will be required at the end of the school year, in addition to the reporting in the Amended Annual Budget and audited Financial Statements for 2022/23. Spending plans are not required.
- An interim, high-level report will be required in January 2023.
- A more detailed report will be required at the end of the school year. A draft reporting template will be distributed shortly and will ask for:
  - **Spending on Food Security**
    - Total amount spent by the district on food supplies and staffing, and spending with third-party providers, in addition to what was budgeted
    - Number of students supported by existing budgeting receiving increased or additional nutritional food/meals supports
    - Number of additional students accessing nutritional food/meals programs in addition to those already budgeted for
    - Examples of types of spending, including any examples where the quality of food/meals provided has improved
    - There should be no administration or overhead spending (e.g., equipment, non-food supplies) in this category
  - **Spending on Family Assistance**
    - Total amount of parental costs offset by category
    - Number of students helped
    - Examples of the type of supports supplied
    - There should be no staffing, administration, or overhead spending in this category
- School districts will also be asked to report on how students accessed the funding:
  - What processes were used to identify parents, guardians, and students who could benefit from this funding, including those from diverse communities where equity is a consideration?
  - Did you engage with your Indigenous Education Council (IEC or local equivalent) to identify the needs of Indigenous students?
    - If so, who did you engage with and how?
    - If not, what other engagement with Indigenous peoples did you undertake?
  - How did you support First Nations students living on reserve / other First Nations students and other Indigenous students attending your schools with this funding?
    - Number of students
    - Amount of funding
    - Types of support

 **School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes)**  
**2022-2023 Affordability Funding Worksheet**  
*Updated October 14, 2022*

<b>Enrolment</b>								
	District	BES	EES	LESS	NES	NSS	ALDL	TOTAL
Elementary Enrolment		47	4	60	184	0	28	323
Secondary Enrolment		0	0	43	1	150	30	224
<b>Total Enrolment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>547</b>

<b>Affordability Target</b>										
	\$/FTE Elem.	\$/FTE Sec.	District	BES	EES	LESS	NES	NSS	ALDL	TOTAL
Schools										
Food Programs	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00	5,000	3,525	300	8,800	13,900	15,000	5,100	\$ 51,625
Food Program Investment			2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 2,000
Fees & School Supplies	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00		2,350	200	6,225	9,275	11,250	3,650	\$ 32,950
Field Trips / Transportation	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	5,000	4,700	400	12,450	18,550	22,500	7,300	\$ 70,900
Transportation Assistance			10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 10,000
School Run Afterschool Programs	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	10,000	940	80	2,060	3,700	3,000	1,160	\$ 20,940
Other - TBD				-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$245.00</b>	<b>\$345.00</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>11,515</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>29,535</b>	<b>45,425</b>	<b>51,750</b>	<b>17,210</b>	<b>\$ 188,415</b>

Note: the costs for operating new transportation vehicles during 2022-2023, which reduce fees for families and provide enhanced educational and extra-curricular options, is subject to MECC verification as an eligible expense for the Affordability Fund to cover