

April 17, 2024

The Honourable Rachna Singh, M.L.A.  
Minister of Education and Child Care  
Government of British Columbia  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2  
Sent by email: [educ.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Enrolment funding schedule**

Dear Minister Singh,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the Board of Education for School District No. 44 (North Vancouver), I am writing to request the Ministry of Education and Child Care provide additional funding to cover the growing costs associated with rising enrolment that happens throughout the school year. As a result of increasing federal immigration, cross-provincial migration and urban development, our school population is rising at an unprecedented rate, resulting in the need for costly interim measures such as portables, supports for English Language Learners (ELL) and students with disabilities, and additional staffing.

At present, these expenses are ineligible for provincial funding. Transferring students and temporary resident registrations (TRRs) only receive provincial funding if they are registered prior to the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Due to limited capacity in our schools, the arrival of these students has necessitated purchasing portables and hiring of new staff during the school year. The costs incurred by unfunded learners and rapid population growth are born solely by our school district. This represents funding that might otherwise have supported local initiatives, programs, and school resources.

This year, North Vancouver School District (NVSD) has experienced an unprecedented number of new student enrolments after September 30. Even prior to September 30, NVSD's confirmed student enrolment was 279 FTE higher than estimated in February 2023. To date, our school district has seen an additional 256 new student registrations since the end of September, which represents an increase of 33 per cent over last year. Many of these students arrive with complex learning needs; the number of Inclusive Education levels 1,2 and 3 students and English Language Learners have all increased.

As you are aware, the majority of school district funding is directed towards staff compensation, leaving only a small discretionary budget to be directed at supplementary programs and services. In order for school boards to have a meaningful say in the direction of their constituencies, it is paramount that this modest sum be focused on local priorities. This allows the values and concerns of each community to be embodied in their annual budgets. The present pace of enrolment growth, without accompanying

funding, has had a direct impact on this process and risks leaving boards and their communities with less self-determination.

In light of these concerns, we urge the Ministry to provide additional funding for midyear enrolments, as well as targeted fiscal support aimed at enrolment pressures, including portable costs and the additional ELL program expenses. We kindly thank you for your attention to this matter and commitment to quality education in the province. We know that your support in addressing this matter would have a profound impact on the students in our district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Munro".

Linda Munro  
Board Chair  
Board of Education  
North Vancouver School District