



March 14, 2013

VIA EMAIL
Ref: 166221

To: All Secretary-Treasurers
All School Districts

Re: Estimated Operating Grants for 2013/14

The estimates for the 2013/14 operating grants have been completed for the 60 boards of education. The district allocations are based on the provincial operating grant of \$4.725 billion, and on projected enrolments as provided by boards for the 2013/14 school year.

Detailed information on the Funding Allocation System is included in the Operating Grants Manual, which is available on the Ministry of Education's website at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/k12funding/>

In 2013/14, the Basic Allocation for students enrolled in standard, continuing education and alternate schools is increasing by \$116 to \$6,900 per eligible full-time equivalent school-age student.

The Supplement for the Education Plan is again in place for 2013/14 to assist districts with implementing initiatives as part of the Education Plan. This supplement is being provided outside of the calculation of the Funding Protection supplement, ensuring all districts receive the additional amount, despite declining enrolment. Further details regarding this supplement will be provided to boards of education in the near future.

Operating grants will be recalculated in autumn 2013, after September 30, 2013 enrolment is confirmed. Operating grants will again be adjusted subsequent to the February and May 2014 continuing education and distributed learning enrolment counts. Funding will also be adjusted in February 2014 for any growth in special needs enrolment, and for new refugee enrolment.

As announced in December 2012, as a result of the decline in enrolment, an additional \$26.3 million became available in the operating grants holdback. The Ministry will be providing \$15.6 million of this as a prepayment of the 2013/14 Annual Facility Grant (AFG) allocation later this month. The total AFG for 2013/14 remains at \$110.5 million.

All districts will be subject to compliance audits and potential recoveries for funding claims not in compliance with Ministry policy and directives.

The Ministry will provide boards of education with the Budget Instruction Manual for 2013/14 as a separate document. The 2013/14 Annual Budget must be submitted to the Ministry on or before June 30, 2013.

The Estimator, a tool to assist boards in determining funding projections, is being updated to reflect the changes noted above and those outlined in the Operating Grants Manual. As in previous editions, the updated Estimator will incorporate the next three years of funding projections into one program. The Estimator will be available to districts on request by sending an e-mail to Michael.Lebrun@gov.bc.ca.

If you have any questions about the funding allocations, please contact Dave Duerksen or Michael Lebrun at (250) 387-0893.

Yours sincerely,



for Keith Miller
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: All Superintendents of Schools