

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: Sanctuary Health BCSTA Motion
Date: April 13, 2022 1:49:56 PM
Attachments: [Sanctuary Schools Brief.pdf](#)
[SD40 - Access to Education for All Students v3 MR.pdf](#)

From: Sanctuary Health <sanctuaryhealthvancouver@gmail.com>
Sent: March 14, 2022 8:00 AM
To: Trustees BoardChair <TrusteesBoardChair@sd68.bc.ca>
Subject: BCSTA Motion

CAUTION: External Message

Dear Charlene McKay,

We are writing to you, the chair of the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Board, requesting that you share this message with attachments with your fellow trustees.

We encourage you to take a leadership role in implementing a Sanctuary Schools policy in your district to provide access to basic education for all children eligible under the School Act. Please find attached a briefing note explaining what a Sanctuary Schools policy is and why it is important to pass such a policy. Migrant families should be able to register, without needing an advocate, in a welcoming, safe, anti-racist environment. As explained in the attached briefing note, Sanctuary Health met directly with representatives of the Funding and Financial Accountability Branch at the Ministry of Education and discussed common concerns raised by school districts about Sanctuary Schools policies. The Ministry's response, confirming their ongoing commitment to access to basic education for all ordinarily resident children regardless of immigration status, is included in the briefing note.

We also encourage you to support the attached motion being put forward at the upcoming B.C. School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Annual General Meeting. This motion is an important opportunity for school boards to work together to recognize and support the right to education. We believe that the most effective way to create accessible, welcoming schools is for school districts to work together. The BCSTA is the perfect forum to implement this work. In 1989, the BCSTA participated in a review of the School Act, writing that "all children resident in a district should be eligible to attend public school. School boards should not be asked to police the Immigration Act." This motion seeks to continue this history of fighting for the Right to Education.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Sanctuary Health

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