



April 12, 2023

Ref: 284725

Greg Keller, Chair  
Board of Education  
School District No. 68 (Nanaimo Ladysmith)  
**Email: [TrusteesBoardChair@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:TrusteesBoardChair@sd68.bc.ca)**

Dear Mr. Keller:

I am responding to a letter dated October 12, 2022, from Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, requesting approval for the Nanaimo Ladysmith Board of Education to underspend its targeted Indigenous Education funding amount for the 2021/22 school year. As this is targeted funding under Section 106.4 of the *School Act*, Boards of Education must request permission from the Minister of Education and Child Care to underspend their target on an annual basis. As Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care, I am pleased to respond on the Minister's behalf.

Pursuant to Section 106.4(2) of the *School Act*, approval is granted for the Board to underspend its 2021/22 school year Indigenous Education target in an amount up to \$415,539. This variation of direction is granted on the condition that these funds will be brought forward and added to the 2022/23 school year Indigenous Education targeted amount to be expended on Indigenous Education programs. I encourage you to discuss your Indigenous Education targeted funding plans with the District Indigenous Education Council or equivalent, including the Nations and Métis Chartered communities whom you serve, to ensure respectful and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples on the use of these funds.

Appendix to this letter contains statistics about your school district's Indigenous student outcomes. I hope we will see you build upon these achievements and strive for strong academic results for all your students in the current and subsequent school years.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding the financial reporting of Indigenous Education expenses, please contact Ian Aaron, Director, School District Financial Reporting, Resource Management Division, by phone at (250) 415-1073 or by email at [Ian.Aaron@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ian.Aaron@gov.bc.ca).

If you have any questions or require further information regarding how the Ministry is supporting delivery of Indigenous Education programs, please contact Stephanie Sinitsin, A/Director, Indigenous Education, Learning Division, by phone at (250) 896-4603 or by email at [Stephanie.Sinitsin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Sinitsin@gov.bc.ca).

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Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.A. Zacharuk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "A".

Christina Zacharuk  
Deputy Minister

pc: Scott Saywell, Superintendent of Schools  
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ricki Bartlett, Director of Instruction, Indigenous Learning, Aboriginal Education  
Stephanie Sinitsin, A/Director, Indigenous Education, Learning Division, Ministry of Education  
Jonathan Foweraker, Executive Director, Resource Management Division, Ministry of Education  
Ian Aaron, Director, School District Financial Reporting, Resource Management Division

## Appendix – SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) Indigenous Student Achievements

In 2021/22 on the Grade 4 Literacy assessment, 53% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 67% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2021/22 on the Grade 4 Numeracy assessment, 42% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 63% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2021/22 on the Grade 7 Literacy assessment, 49% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 73% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2021/22 on the Grade 7 Numeracy assessment, 40% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 61% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

Six-year completion rate for Indigenous students has increased from 62.5% in 2017/18 to 76.7% in 2021/22.

Six-year completion rate for Non-Indigenous students have increased from 82.9% in 2017/18 to 89.3% in 2021/22.

Of 118 Indigenous graduates from SD68 in 2016/17, 49 (42%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 65 (55%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 777 Non-Indigenous graduates from SD68 in 2016/17, 375 (48%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 520 (67%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 98 Indigenous non-graduates from SD68 in 2016/17, 8 (8%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 18 (18%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 431 Non-Indigenous non-graduates from SD68 in 2016/17, 12 (3%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 27 (6%) had transitioned into post-secondary.