



March 26, 2024

Ref: 295429

Greg Keller, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
Email: trusteesboardchair@sd68.bc.ca

Dear Greg Keller:

I am responding to a letter dated September 21, 2023, from Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, requesting approval for the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Board of Education to underspend its targeted Indigenous Education funding amount for the 2022/23 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 2022/23 school year Indigenous Education target in an amount up to \$131,664. This variation of direction is granted on the condition that these funds will be brought forward and added to the 2023/24 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 to ensure respectful and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples on the use of these funds.

The attachment 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.

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If you have any questions or require further information regarding how the Ministry of Education and Child Care is supporting delivery of Indigenous Education programs, please contact Francis Recalma, Manager, Indigenous Education, System Liaison and Supports Division, by phone at (250) 882-6273 or by email at Francis.Recalma@gov.bc.ca.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Christina Zacharuk
Deputy Minister

Attachment – SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) Indigenous Student Achievements

cc: Ian Aaron, Director, School District Financial Reporting, Resource Management Division,
Ministry of Education and Child Care
Caroline Ponsford, A/Executive Director, Resource Management Division,
Ministry of Education and Child Care
Amber Shilling, Executive Director, System Liaison and Supports Division,
Ministry of Education and Child Care
Francis Recalma, Manager, Indigenous Education, System Liaison and Supports Division,
Ministry of Education and Child Care
Scott Saywell, Superintendent, School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)

Attachment – SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) Indigenous Student Achievements

Foundation Skills Assessment

In 2022/23 on the Grade 4 Literacy assessment, 47% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 66% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2022/23 on the Grade 4 Numeracy assessment, 39% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 55% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2022/23 on the Grade 7 Literacy assessment, 45% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 66% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2022/23 on the Grade 7 Numeracy assessment, 29% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 50% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

Six-year Completion Rate

Six-year completion rate for Indigenous students has increased from 69.2% in 2018/19 to 73.5% in 2022/23.

Six-year completion rate for Non-Indigenous students has increased from 85.7% in 2018/19 to 91.3% in 2022/23.

Transitions to BC Public Post-Secondary Institutions

Of 102 Indigenous graduates from SD68 in 2017/18, 55 (54%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and within 4 years after grad, 71 (70%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 667 Non-Indigenous graduates from SD68 in 2017/18, 355 (53%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and within 4 years after grad, 474 (71%) had transitioned into post-secondary.