

**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING  
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: April 9, 2025  
TO: Strategic Directions Committee  
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer and Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendent  
SUBJECT: Student and Family Affordability Fund Update

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### **Background**

The Ministry of Education and Child Care provided funding through the Student and Family Affordability Fund (SFAF) last spring for use in the 2025-26 school year. With additional funding now available through Feeding Futures to support student nutrition during the school day, the intent and criteria for SFAF funds have been updated. This information sheet will provide an update on the district's allocation of the funds.

### **Discussion**

This fund is designed to assist families in need with school-related costs in the following areas:

- School and course fees
- School supplies and course materials
- Field trips
- School-related extracurricular opportunities
- Clothing and footwear required for sports and school activities

To ensure broad and equitable support for students, funds were allocated in the following ways:

- A portion was provided directly to Indigenous partners to support Indigenous students and families.
- A portion was allocated to the Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation to assist families through direct requests.
- The largest portion was distributed to all schools, allowing school teams to allocate funds throughout the year based on family needs.

At this time, there is still a substantial balance remaining in the fund. It is common for schools to draw more heavily on these funds in the final three months of the school year, as field trip expenses tend to increase. These funds help ensure all students have access to these opportunities, regardless of financial barriers.

Our school PVP teams have been reminded to utilize these funds in the next two months. We will continue to monitor fund usage at each school and reallocate resources as needed to best support families.