



February 22, 2021

Ref: 240168

Charlene McKay, Chair  
Board of Education  
School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)  
**Email: [Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca)**

Dear Ms. McKay:

I am responding to a letter of October 6, 2020, from Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, requesting approval for the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Board of Education to underspend its targeted Indigenous Education funding amount for the 2019/20 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 to underspend their target on an annual basis. As Deputy Minister of Education, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education.

Pursuant to section 106.4(2) of the *School Act*, approval is granted for the Board to underspend its 2019/20 school year Indigenous Education target in an amount up to \$337,364. This variation of direction is granted on the condition that these funds will be brought forward and added to the 2020/21 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 to 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).

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If you have any questions or require further information regarding how the Ministry of Education is supporting delivery of Indigenous Education programs, please contact Nicole Ryan, Manager, Indigenous Education, Learning Division, by phone at (250) 415-8780 or by email at [Nicole.Ryan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Ryan@gov.bc.ca).

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



D. Scott MacDonald  
Deputy Minister

Attachment: Appendix – SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) Indigenous Student Achievements

pc: Scott Saywell, Superintendent of Schools  
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ted Cadwallader, Director of Instruction, Indigenous Learning, Aboriginal Education  
Nicole Ryan, Manager, 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,  
Ministry of Education

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

In 2019/20 on the Grade 4 Reading Comprehension assessment, 51% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 67% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2019/20 on the Grade 4 Numeracy assessment, 40% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 63% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2019/20 on the Grade 7 Reading Comprehension assessment, 57% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 73% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

In 2019/20 on the Grade 7 Numeracy assessment, 42% of Indigenous students were “On Track” or “Extending” expectations on the revised FSA compared to 62% of Non-Indigenous students in SD68.

Six-year completion rate for Indigenous students has increased from 56.4% in 2015/16 to 67.8% in 2019/20.

Six-year completion rate for Non-Indigenous students have increased from 75.4% in 2015/16 to 76.3% in 2019/20.

Of 118 Indigenous graduates from SD68 in 2014/15, 50 (42%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 71 (60%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 799 Non-Indigenous graduates from SD68 in 2014/15, 399 (50%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 542 (68%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 119 Indigenous non-graduates from SD68 in 2014/15, 13 (11%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 29 (24%) had transitioned into post-secondary.

Of 486 Non-Indigenous non-graduates from SD68 in 2014/15, 39 (8%) immediately transitioned to B.C. public post-secondary institutions, and 4 years after grad, 58 (12%) had transitioned into post-secondary.