



ITEM 12

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee
Mike Murray

Re: **MOTION TO BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES
ASSOCIATION – EQUITABLE
FUNDING**

Date: February 15, 2023
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Community LINK is funding to provide nutrition and support to vulnerable and disadvantaged students (\$56.55 million).

The 2018 Report of the Funding Model Review Panel noted that:

“While the Ministry allocates over \$60 million in funding annually through operating grants as well as a number of special grants to help support vulnerable student populations, including CommunityLINK and the Supplement for Vulnerable Students, the feedback received from stakeholders indicated that this funding is outdated and uncoordinated. Many other jurisdictions have made changes to their funding models to better reflect the socioeconomic issues that communities and schools are struggling to deal with by looking to third-party data to assist in allocations through a prevalence-based approach.”

Since 2018, the inequitable distribution of these funds has been further exacerbated in 2020/21 by the replacement of the Supplement for Vulnerable Students with the supplement for Equity of Opportunity.

While the Vulnerable Students supplement was clearly identified as being provided in addition to CommunityLINK and attempted to create an equitable distribution of the funding, the Equity of Opportunity supplement is noted to address “Mental health and youth in care” and is based on a flawed set of prevalence data which further exacerbates inequities between school districts.

In practical terms school districts that receive legacy high CommunityLINK allocations can provide universal meal programs to students in their schools while school districts like ours have to rely on grants and community support to provide meals to the students.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the following motion for submission to BCSTA:

“That the BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for the implementation of an equitable distribution of CommunityLINK and Equity of Opportunity funding to all school districts in the province.”

28. Funding for CommunityLINK and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement

Category: Education Finance

Motion #: 28 : A202328

Meeting: AGM 2023

Sponsor: Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

Action: *not specified*

- Aug 18, 2023: Letter sent
- Aug 24, 2023: ADM Chris Brown & team make presentation to BCSTA BoD re: funding

Category:

Outcome:

- Jan 18, 2024: ADM Chris Brown shared about CommunityLINK funding at Board Chairs call.

Disposition: Carried

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education and Child Care provide the data and rationale on how CommunityLINK and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement funding is determined and distributed to districts, and further, that the Ministry of Education and Child Care increase the funding for CommunityLINK and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement to ensure equitable distribution without a negative impact to current levels of district funding.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education and Child Care provide the data and rationale on how CommunityLINK and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement funding is determined and distributed to districts, and further, that the Ministry of Education and Child Care increase the funding for CommunityLINK and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement to ensure equitable distribution without a negative impact to current levels of district funding.

Rationale:

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approach.”

Since 2018, the inequitable distribution of these funds has been further exacerbated in 2020/21 by the replacement of the Supplement for Vulnerable Students with the Equity of Opportunity Supplement.

While the Vulnerable Students supplement was clearly identified as being provided in addition to CommunityLINK and attempted to create an equitable distribution of the funding, the Equity of Opportunity Supplement is noted to address “Mental health and youth in care” and is based on a flawed set of prevalence data which further exacerbates inequities between school districts.

In practical terms school districts that receive legacy high CommunityLINK allocations can provide universal meal programs to students in their schools while school districts like ours must rely on grants and community support to provide meals to the students.

Reference(s):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/resource-management/k12funding/20-21/20-21-operating-grants-manual.pdf>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/resource-management/k12funding/19-20/19-20-operating-grants-manual.pdf>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/resource-management/k-12-funding-and-allocation/operating-grants/k12funding-22-23>

This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.