



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

BCSTA COVID-19 Working Group Survey

Introduction

BCSTA's COVID-19 Response Working Group has met weekly through the summer to gather information pertaining to COVID-19 and K-12 education, both in British Columbia, as well as other jurisdictions across Canada and around the world.

Today we are sending out a governance-focused COVID-19 survey to board chairs, asking them to work with their boards and senior teams to answer the following questions. The goal is to gather information that will help us better support boards during these challenging times and to assist in identifying the areas where our advocacy around COVID-19 is best focused.

We would ask that you complete the survey no later than October 2 to allow BCSTA's board to collect the data and to continue to work on your behalf.

Thank you,

Tim Bennett (BOD and SD57)

Carolyn Broady (BOD and SD45)

Korleen Carrerras (SD42)

Bob Holmes (SD36)

Bill MacFarlane (SD19)

Jordan Watters (SD61)



BCSTA COVID-19 Working Group Survey

Impact on students

1. Your school district

School District No. 63 (Saanich) 

2. How is your district addressing the following issues, and how can BCSTA support you?

Social isolation / youth mental health

School counsellors and case managers are reaching out to vulnerable students and their families including those accessing remote learning. We are building capacity in staff focusing on trauma sensitive approach, strategies for anxiety, and mental health literacy. We are connecting with community agencies to support families.

Food insecurity

Schools are supporting those in need within their buildings. We were successful in receiving a grant through Victoria Rapid Relief and will be supporting families with food insecurity using these funds.

School based supports for vulnerable students / priority learners (i.e. counselling, student support services.)

Case management and counselling services are continuing, including for those students learning remotely. School teams are identifying students with vulnerabilities and ensuring supports are in place.

Digital inequality

To support families accessing remote learning, the district has a technology loan program for any families that requests assistance.

3. What percentage of students have returned to school in-person?

- 1 - 10%
- 11 - 20%
- 21 - 30%
- 31 - 40%
- 41 - 50%
- 51 - 60%
- 61 - 70%
- 71 - 80%
- 81 - 90%
- 91 - 100%

4. How is your district working with families who are hesitant to return to in-person learning?

Select all that apply.

- District distributed learning program
- School based remote learning model (transitional)
- Home schooling
- One-on-one meetings between parents and admin focused on gradual return
- Other (please specify)

5. Are you working with Indigenous communities and rightsholders on return to school plans?

- Yes
- No

How?

In Saanich we are working with Indigenous communities by:

- Meeting regularly with the nations
- Offering choices for a hybrid, in school or remote program
- Hiring extra staff to ensure Indigenous learners are supported
- Offering access to technology for Indigenous learners
- Offering fluid access between programs for learners so families have choice.

6. Are there areas of support for vulnerable learners during COVID-19 that BCSTA should advocate for?

- Yes
- No
- What?

Greater access to community supports and respite for some families who are very isolated and without a strong support network. Greater focus on youth mental health and substance use - particularly in terms of community supports and interventions.



BCSTA COVID-19 Working Group Survey

Governance and engagement

7. How is your board communicating with students, unions and parents?

- Emails
- Town hall meeting
- Public board / committee meetings
- Surveys
- Broadcast advertising
- Print advertising
- Social media
- Videos
- Phone calls
- Other (please specify)

Continued engagement with partner groups including those representing parents, and staff (unions). Engagement with individual parents and students within schools.

8. Has your board been meeting with the following groups?

- Indigenous rightsholders
- Municipal
- Provincial
- Federal
- Local health authority
- None
- Other (please specify)

9. What is the most important way BCSTA can support your board with governance?

- Offer more resources
- Offer more professional development
- Other (please specify)

No suggested response from staff. For Board discussion.

10. How can BCSTA best support your board with engagement?

Rank in order of importance, 1 being most important and 3 being least important.



Offer more resources

No suggested response from staff. For Board discussion.



Offer more professional development



Hold more trustee town halls

BCSTA COVID-19 Working Group Survey

Finance

11. Has COVID-19 delayed your capital projects?

Yes

Note: We have not experienced material delays.

No

12. What shovel-ready projects do you have ready to go?

Seismic

Hvac

Roofing

Major renovation

New schools

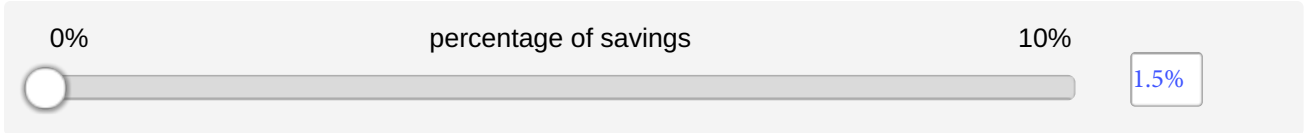
School additions

Outdoor learning spaces

Environmental updates

Other (please specify)

13. What percentage of savings of your operating grant did you realize from March to June because of the impact of COVID-19?



14. What will you be using your federal and provincial funds for?

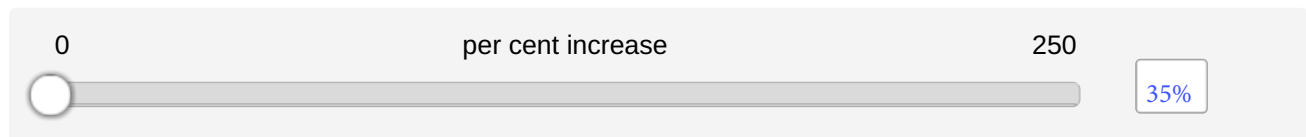
- TTOC costs
- Custodial costs
- Remote learning
- Building upgrades
- Additional staffing
- Training
- Mental health supports
- Transportation
- Before and after school care
- Other (please specify)

Personal Protective Equipment, technology for remote learning, upgraded HVAC filters, and utility cost increase.

15. Have you budgeted for increased TTOC costs?

- Yes Explanation: We have not increased our budget for sick leave, but are holding Federal funding in contingency. A factor in determining cost is the availability of TTOC's for replacement as TTOC's are assigned temporary contracts for remote learning or hired into new DL positions. The 35% increase at this point relates to the budget for remote learning.
- No

16. How much has your TTOC budget increased due to COVID-19?



17. How can BCSTA support or advocate for your board on COVID-19 related budget issues?

The 2020/21 budget in our district and in other districts is not sustainable beyond the current fiscal year due to reliance on accumulated surplus and now funding targeted to the pandemic. As districts plan for the 2021/22 preliminary budgets in the spring, BCSTA's support and advocacy will be important.

BCSTA COVID-19 Working Group Survey

International students

18. What is the financial impact of the loss of international student revenues on your district operating budget?

- We don't have an international program
- <5 per cent of the overall budget
- 5-10 per cent of the overall budget
- 10+ per cent of the overall budget

19. How can BCSTA support or advocate for your district's international program?

The financial impact in our district is approximately \$3 million (4%), which is significant. A related issue is the method by which the ministry determined the Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF), which in effect assumed districts would continue to fund 2016/17 staffing levels (as a baseline) even though, in many districts, enhanced staffing levels were paid for using international program profits. Without an increase to historical international program revenues in 2021/22, the ministry will need to revisit CEF allocations to ensure the language restored in the ministry's MOA is actually funded.

BCSTA COVID-19 Working Group Survey

Mental health

20. As a result of COVID-19, our district anticipates some impacts for student well-being and we will be gathering evidence and discussing how to plan for this at my board table.

- Strongly agree *Note: this is addressed in the Stage 2 plan and will be monitored.*
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- N/A

21. In light of COVID-19, our district has established a need to build additional supports for resilience and recovery for our students.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- N/A

BCSTA COVID-19 Working Group Survey

Finally

22. What are the biggest challenges your district faces in the coming school year due to COVID-19?

- Uncertainty related to the pandemic and effectively responding to change, and
- Budget planning for fiscal 2021/22.