



June 3, 2024

Ref: 299375

Adam Olsen
MLA Saanich North and the Islands
BC Green Party
Email: adam.olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear Adam:

Thank you for your email of May 21, 2024, regarding the K-12 education funding model.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care is aware of the different and unique challenges school districts face, with some areas experiencing unprecedented growth and increased enrollment, while others are contending with low or flat enrolment, creating specific concerns about inflationary costs.

The Ministry has been working to gather information and is in regular and continuing discussions with school districts on these various concerns, including the inflationary pressures the K-12 sector faces. Knowing that more work is still necessary, discussions are ongoing as to the extent of the impact on operations and we continue to work towards finding possible ways to address these challenges. As part of our efforts to ensure all schools in the province continue to have the support they need, our Government recently announced increases of approximately 3.4 percent to the per student rates for the 2024/25 school year, bringing the [operating grants](#) to over \$7.0 billion. School District No. 63 (Saanich) specifically is estimated to receive \$89.6 million in operating grant funding in 2024/25, a \$3.6 million increase compared to the 2023/24 school year.

On August 29, 2022, the Ministry announced that school districts in BC will be provided with a one-time fund (\$60 million) called the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) (SFAF) intended to provide additional funds to parents to offset costs of food, school supplies, and any additional fees so that students can take part in activities, such as field trips, athletics, and fine arts. The SFAF was replenished this year with an additional \$18.9 million to public schools to offset the same costs outlined above except for food related costs.

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In addition to the SFAF program, the Ministry has established [Feeding Futures](#) funding which invests in building and expanding school food programs in school districts across BC. A total of \$71.5 million is being provided each year for school years 2023/24 through 2025/26.

Again, thank you for writing and for your continued advocacy for your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Singh', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rachna Singh
Minister

cc: Tim Dunford, Board Chair, School District No. 63 (Saanich)