

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee  
Mike Murray

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

Date: February 15, 2023  
(Public Board Meeting)

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**Decision**

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**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and the Supplement for Vulnerable Students, the feedback received from stakeholders indicated that this funding is outdated and uncoordinated.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
- Jan 18, 2024: ADM Chris Brown shared about CommunityLINK funding at Board Chairs call.

**Category:**

**Outcome:**

**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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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.**



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

August 18, 2023

**The Honourable Rachna Singh**

*Minister of Education and Child Care*

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

[ecc.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ecc.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Singh,

**Subject: Funding for CommunityLINK and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement**

At the British Columbia School Trustees Association's 2023 annual general meeting, our members, representing all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

*"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."*

On May 31, I had the opportunity to meet with several members of your ministry alongside BCSTA CEO Suzanne Hoffman. During those meetings, we met with Assistant Deputy Minister Chris Brown, and his team, to discuss the motion outlined above.

Our discussions informed us that, with the introduction of the Feeding Futures Fund, the Ministry of Education and Child Care is currently reviewing CommunityLINK funding allocations. Our membership has indicated that the current CommunityLINK and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement allocations are insufficient to serve growing student populations, and we are encouraged to hear that they are actively being reviewed. We understand that the ministry is working with the Funding Equity Committee as part of reviewing resources directed toward vulnerable students, and we look forward to hearing of improvements to funding in the near future.



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

By increasing CommunityLINK and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement allocations, we can provide better programs that students need to meet their full potential while not burdening school districts with a reliance on grants and community support to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" and last name "Broady" clearly distinguishable.

**Carolyn Broady**

*President*

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202328

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

CC: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care  
Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister  
BCSTA member boards of education  
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA  
BCSTA Board of Directors