



**Public Board Meeting**  
**June 17, 2026**  
**Information Memo**  
**Item 15**

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**From:** Teresa Downs, Superintendent of Schools

**Topic:** **CommunityLINK Information Sheet**

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**BACKGROUND**

At its January 14, 2026 meeting, the Board of Education passed a motion regarding advocacy related to the CommunityLINK funding allocations. Among the actions authorized was the development of a parent information sheet to increase awareness of the district's concerns regarding CommunityLINK funding and the advocacy efforts underway to support a more equitable and transparent funding model.

The Board's Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee of the Whole on Equitable Funding has led the development of the CommunityLINK Information Sheet. The document has been refined through the committee's work and incorporates feedback received from the District Parent Advisory Council.

The information sheet is now complete (**Attachment A**) and available to support ongoing advocacy, engagement, and communication efforts.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT the Board receive the CommunityLINK Information sheet, for information.**

# CommunityLINK Funding: What Families Need to Know

Public education in British Columbia is facing ongoing funding pressures that are affecting how school districts can support students. **CommunityLINK** — a provincial grant for meals, counselling, after-school programs, and other supports for students facing barriers — is one area where these pressures are felt most. The Board of Education believes a review of how this funding is distributed across school districts is long overdue. In 2023, then Minister Singh stated, “we agree that the funding allocations under CommunityLINK require revision as they are based on outdated socio-economic data and a historical grant application process, and therefore no longer address current inequities across the province. Internal discussions are taking place on how to address these inequities.”

## WHAT IS COMMUNITYLINK?

CommunityLINK (Community Learning, Inclusion, Nutrition & Kids) is a provincial grant that funds programs for students experiencing challenges such as food insecurity, mental health needs, or socioeconomic barriers. In SD42, this funding supports:

- Breakfast, lunch, and snack programs
- Counselling and youth support workers
- Before- and after-school programs
- Academic supports and learning resources

These needs in the school district are far greater than the funding provided.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Because SD42 receives less targeted funding, students in our community may not have access to the same level of support available in other districts. The district must often use general operating funds to fill gaps, reducing flexibility for other needs.

We want to ensure the allocation process is transparent, fair, and responsive to local needs across the province.

## THE FUNDING GAP

SD42 serves **2.78%** of BC students but receives only about **1.05%** of total CommunityLINK funding. Combined with the Equity of Opportunity Supplement and the National School Food Program, here is how SD42 compares:



SD42 receives the lowest funding per student of all 60 school districts in BC — roughly half the provincial average.

Under a socioeconomic-based funding model, SD42 would receive 2.93% of provincial funding (nearly three times its current 1.05% share) suggesting the current allocation does not reflect actual student need. The Board has filed a Freedom of Information request to obtain the Ministry’s funding formula, which has not been shared despite repeated requests.

## WHAT THE BOARD IS DOING

The Board of Education is advocating for:

- **Greater transparency** in how CommunityLINK funding is allocated across BC
- **More equitable funding** so that students in SD42 have access to comparable supports

The Board has raised these concerns directly with the Ministry of Education and Child Care and through provincial advocacy channels.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- 1 **Contact your MLA and the Ministry of Education** to express concern about funding transparency and equity.
- 2 **Share this information** with other families to build awareness and collective voice.
- 3 **Raise it at your PAC or DPAC meeting** to keep the conversation going in our school community.

## KEY CONTACTS

Minister of Education & Child Care  
[ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows MLA  
 Find your MLA: [leg.bc.ca/members](http://leg.bc.ca/members)

SD42 Board of Education  
[board@sd42.ca](mailto:board@sd42.ca)

The Board will continue to work towards improving students' access to the supports they need. Equitable, transparent funding benefits all students across British Columbia.

Board of Education  
 Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District No. 42  
 Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows