

September 26, 2025

The Honourable Lisa Beare  
Minister of Education and Child Care  
Office of the Minister  
Parliament Buildings  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
Via Email: [ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject: National School Food Program and Funding Allocation Inequities  
for Supporting Priority Student Populations**

Dear Minister Beare,

On behalf of The Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows), I am writing to express our deep concern regarding ongoing inequities in the allocation of provincial funding targeted for priority student populations, including the recent change in the allocation method for the National School Food Program (NSFP) special purpose grant for 2025/26. This letter is sent in accordance with the Board's motion directing the Chair to communicate our concerns to your office.

Despite repeated advocacy and clear evidence of persistent funding inequities—most recently detailed in [our letter to you dated May 29, 2025](#)—the allocation model for the CommunityLINK (CLINK) special purpose grant, the Equity of Opportunity Supplement (EOS) to the operating grant, and now the NSFP, continues to disadvantage our district and the priority students we serve that these funds are intended to support.

**Key Issues:**

- The 2025/26 allocation methodology for the new NSFP now relies on the EOS, which our Board has previously identified as an inequitable model. Notably, EOS allocations are based on the location of MCFD offices rather than the students' actual school district of enrolment. This raises serious concerns about the accuracy and fairness of the EOS model—particularly for districts like SD42, where students may access services outside their home district. Furthermore, NSFP allocation methodology does not address the historic inequities present in CLINK and EOS funding, which target similar student populations.
- Our Board strongly believes that the Socioeconomic Status (SES) index is a more equitable model for allocating school food program funds. SD42 has more schools with an SES below the provincial average than the average district, yet our NSFP allocation for 2025/26 is just 2.21% of the provincial total—lower than both our share of provincial enrolment (2.78%) and what the allocation would be under the SES model (2.93% based on 2024/25 data).
- The shift away from SES-based allocation to the operating grant formula with weighting for rural factors and EOS has further reduced our share of the provincial total, even as overall program funding increased.
- The additional NSFP funding could have been used to address the inequities that exist with CLINK and EOS, but the current model fails to do so.
- Combined, SD42's funding for CLINK, EOS and NSFP for 2025/26 is \$87 per student—the lowest of all 60 school districts in the province, and far below the provincial average of \$170 per student as shown in the **Attachment**.

- These disparities have a direct and negative impact on our ability to support vulnerable families, maintain essential programs, and fulfill our mandate of providing equitable opportunities for all learners.

Our Board has consistently advocated for a funding model that is reliable, transparent, and responsive to actual student needs. The attached data and correspondence demonstrate that, despite Ministry acknowledgement of these issues, meaningful change has not yet been realized.

**We respectfully request:**

- A review and revision of the National School Food Program allocation methodology to ensure districts like SD42 receive funding that reflects both enrolment and the needs of our students, using a more equitable SES-based model.
- Immediate action to address historical and ongoing inequities in CommunityLINK and Equity of Opportunity funding.
- Transparent communication regarding the rationale for funding decisions, with acknowledgement and due consideration for known funding allocation inequities that exist with other grants, and a timeline for implementing a more equitable model.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response. Our Board remains committed to working collaboratively with the Ministry to ensure all students in British Columbia have access to the supports they need to thrive.

Sincerely,



Elaine Yamamoto, Chairperson  
Board of Education

Cc: The Board of Education, School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)  
Teresa Downs, Superintendent of Schools & CEO  
Richard Rennie, Secretary Treasurer  
Lisa Beare, MLA Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows  
Lawrence Mok, MLA Maple Ridge East  
Martin Dmitrieff, President, Maple Ridge Teachers' Association  
Jason Franklin, President, CUPE Local 703  
Chad Raible, President, Maple Ridge Principal/Vice Principals' Association  
Trish Coft, Chairperson, District Parent Advisory Council

Attachment

## Attachment

# School District		Summary	Table 4c	Announced Sep 2025		Table 1b				
		Community LINK (CLINK)	Equity of Opportunity Supplement (EOS) Total	2025/26 National School Food Program (NSFP)	Total of CLINK EOS & NSFP	Enrolment 2025/26 Full-Year	2025/26 Funding Per Student			
							CLINK	EOS	NSFP	Total
87	Stikine	\$ 606,403	\$ 16,431	\$ 78,830	\$ 701,664	177.0000	\$3,426	\$ 93	\$ 445	\$3,964
49	Central Coast	281,675	19,110	52,180	352,965	213.0000	1,322	90	245	1,657
84	Vancouver Island West	148,081	36,911	36,070	221,062	310.0000	478	119	116	713
92	Nisga'a	158,239	45,554	62,180	265,973	390.0000	406	117	159	682
50	Haida Gwaii	123,644	45,917	115,800	285,361	501.0000	247	92	231	570
74	Gold Trail	424,710	91,283	46,500	562,493	1,033.0000	411	88	45	545
52	Prince Rupert	582,790	208,059	93,740	884,589	1,780.4800	327	117	53	497
85	Vancouver Island North	371,538	138,737	61,680	571,955	1,177.0000	316	118	52	486
81	Fort Nelson	155,054	42,330	67,360	264,744	600.0000	258	71	112	441
70	Pacific Rim	1,019,659	346,172	162,910	1,528,741	3,825.0000	267	91	43	400
10	Arrow Lakes	107,344	37,565	46,340	191,249	519.0000	207	72	89	368
78	Fraser-Cascade	392,453	178,825	71,840	643,118	1,790.9375	219	100	40	359
28	Quesnel	568,856	251,017	135,360	955,233	2,848.0000	200	88	48	335
91	Nechako Lakes	583,164	387,502	174,060	1,144,726	3,771.5000	155	103	46	304
82	Coast Mountains	655,464	436,137	172,630	1,264,231	4,236.0000	155	103	41	298
57	Prince George	2,435,896	939,157	475,700	3,850,753	13,110.0000	186	72	36	294
27	Cariboo-Chilcotin	737,288	393,439	199,790	1,330,517	4,537.0000	163	87	44	293
61	Greater Victoria	4,277,695	1,091,201	374,040	5,742,936	20,754.3750	206	53	18	277
40	New Westminster	1,738,062	348,558	136,350	2,222,970	8,183.4900	212	43	17	272
58	Nicola-Similkameen	322,729	141,446	97,860	562,035	2,086.5000	155	68	47	269
20	Kootenay-Columbia	769,086	215,087	139,490	1,123,663	4,171.8440	184	52	33	269
39	Vancouver	10,647,334	2,471,840	903,520	14,022,694	52,311.2500	204	47	17	268
68	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	2,630,683	879,899	484,730	3,995,312	15,638.0170	168	56	31	255
8	Kootenay Lake	759,048	252,689	183,350	1,195,087	4,721.0000	161	54	39	253
51	Boundary	172,818	78,309	59,150	310,277	1,245.2500	139	63	48	249
46	Sunshine Coast	558,396	204,710	106,460	869,566	3,495.5000	160	59	30	249
54	Bulkley Valley	265,112	118,279	77,100	460,491	1,910.0000	139	62	40	241
59	Peace River South	416,681	277,105	160,260	854,046	3,714.7110	112	75	43	230
64	Gulf Islands	164,268	79,119	53,410	296,797	1,410.0000	117	56	38	210
53	Okanagan Similkameen	254,752	141,511	98,310	494,573	2,387.5625	107	59	41	207
72	Campbell River	602,848	366,342	201,930	1,171,120	5,757.1700	105	64	35	203
6	Rocky Mountain	445,058	138,988	121,210	705,256	3,513.7500	127	40	34	201
19	Revelstoke	118,513	58,156	40,710	217,379	1,117.0000	106	52	36	195
73	Kamloops-Thompson	1,697,265	933,128	453,880	3,084,273	16,200.5000	105	58	28	190
60	Peace River North	647,478	295,957	225,550	1,168,985	6,272.2500	103	47	36	186
69	Qualicum	442,357	202,234	148,180	792,771	4,298.0000	103	47	34	184
47	qathet	230,412	212,538	111,570	554,520	3,115.0000	74	68	36	178
79	Cowichan Valley	768,315	433,349	270,230	1,471,894	8,364.7660	92	52	32	176
67	Okanagan Skaha	403,065	392,148	192,010	987,223	6,032.5000	67	65	32	164
75	Mission	460,240	401,509	240,410	1,102,159	6,806.0000	68	59	35	162
22	Vernon	649,093	485,304	267,250	1,401,647	8,864.0000	73	55	30	158
5	Southeast Kootenay	422,724	333,666	185,000	941,390	5,988.0000	71	56	31	157
41	Burnaby	2,714,667	1,027,933	463,830	4,206,430	28,593.3048	95	36	16	147
33	Chilliwack	775,082	965,343	509,840	2,250,265	15,885.1413	49	61	32	142
63	Saanich	486,599	460,558	149,050	1,096,207	7,836.1250	62	59	19	140
34	Abbotsford	1,325,905	891,947	598,540	2,816,392	20,602.0000	64	43	29	137
35	Langley	2,365,238	742,640	401,150	3,509,028	26,227.8036	90	28	15	134
48	Sea to Sky	344,007	241,842	94,500	680,349	5,230.8120	66	46	18	130
83	North Okanagan-Shuswap	368,914	291,959	189,700	850,573	6,731.5237	55	43	28	126
71	Comox Valley	627,949	449,334	340,150	1,417,433	11,425.0000	55	39	30	124
44	North Vancouver	1,304,811	507,889	253,220	2,065,920	16,657.4741	78	30	15	124
62	Sooke	800,343	532,942	253,010	1,586,295	14,242.0000	56	37	18	111
38	Richmond	869,538	1,258,007	408,020	2,535,565	23,593.7813	37	53	17	107
23	Central Okanagan	1,296,051	921,844	479,690	2,697,585	25,219.3750	51	37	19	107
36	Surrey	4,387,210	2,787,808	1,459,890	8,634,908	82,206.0429	53	34	18	105
45	West Vancouver	326,583	270,817	114,260	711,660	7,036.7750	46	38	16	101
43	Coquitlam	1,735,490	1,145,421	531,050	3,411,961	34,108.5000	51	34	16	100
93	Conseil scolaire francophone	140,301	286,768	154,240	581,309	6,044.3750	23	47	26	96
37	Delta	671,036	550,411	250,540	1,471,987	16,125.5000	42	34	16	91
42	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	636,848	499,319	316,890	1,453,057	16,764.0100	38	30	19	87
Provincial Total		60,392,862	28,000,000	14,352,500	102,745,362	603,706.8966	100	46	24	170



October 31, 2025

Ref: 313573

Elaine Yamamoto, Chair  
Board of Education  
School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)  
**Email: [elaine\\_yamamoto@sd42.ca](mailto:elaine_yamamoto@sd42.ca)**

Dear Elaine Yamamoto:

Thank you for your letter of September 26, 2025, regarding the National School Food Program (NSFP) and how it is allocated to school districts in British Columbia.

In March 2025, the Provincial Government entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada through the NSFP, providing approximately \$39 million over three years in additional school food program funding to complement the provincial Feeding Futures investment.

As part of the agreement, BC has committed to invest federal funds to advance the objectives of Canada's National School Food Policy. This includes allocating funds where they are needed most, such as in communities that are currently underserved by food programs or populations that are most affected by food insecurity, including rural and remote communities or low-income households.

Year 1 (2024/25) NSFP funding was distributed in spring 2025, and allocations were determined based on a socioeconomic status index (SES) for each school within each school district. In response to concerns raised by some districts regarding the use of the SES index, the Ministry of Education and Child Care revised the allocation methodology for Years 2 and 3 (2025/26-2026/27) based on advice by the [Funding Equity Committee](#) (FEC). The FEC is responsible for providing technical advice and recommendations to the Minister of Education and Child Care, though the Ministry, related to the school district funding allocation formula and rates. The committee is made up of senior school district staff and representatives from the First Nations Education Steering Committee and Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique. The FEC and various school districts were engaged in the development of the Year 2-3 Action Plan and advice from these districts was taken into consideration in the development of the revised allocation methodology.

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In Years 2 and 3, school districts will receive at least 1.5 times their Year 1 allocation. Additionally, Year 2 and 3 funding allocations will be determined using the school district operating grant formula, with additional weighting added to rural factors and the Equity of Opportunity Supplement (EOS), which factors in unique student needs and low-income families.

Additional weighting to rural factors and the EOS enables targeting funds where need is likely to be greater in the province in alignment with the National School Food Policy.

I acknowledge that school districts have varied perspectives regarding the allocation methodology and that no formula will perfectly align with the priorities of all districts. The revised allocation methodology balances the needs of rural and urban districts by utilizing the operating grant formula, which accounts for district size, and increasing the weight of rural/remote and low-income factors to address the unique needs of rural/remote and low-income areas.

With regards to your request for a broader review of the operating funding model, including how Community LINK and EOS are calculated, the [K-12 Public Education Funding Review](#) was completed in 2018. At this point, government has paused the implementation of the remaining recommendations from the Funding Model Review and will review the path forward at an appropriate time in the future. I want to reassure you that the Ministry is committed to engaging with partners on any path chosen.

Thank you again for your advocacy on this issue and on behalf of the students and families of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows).

Sincerely,



Lisa Beare  
Minister

cc: Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Financial Management Division  
Cloë Nicholls, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Programs and Policy Division