



**DISTRICT 36 PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
14033 – 92 AVENUE, SURREY, BC, V3V 0B7

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February 27, 2018

K-12 Public Education Funding Model Review Committee  
VIA EMAIL: k12fundingreview@gov.bc.ca

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input/ feedback on the current education funding formula to ensure BC's K-12 public education system receives stable and predictable funding.

We believe that, while no formula is perfect. The current per-student funding formula works generally well and strikes a good balance between funding allocated on a per-pupil basis and other factors such as average educator salary changes and unique geographic factors. We also agree with the Terms of Reference principles of equity, efficiency, consistency, transparency, flexibility, autonomy and stability/ predictability. In practice, we did not observe all the principles being applied. Going forward, the formula needs to adhere to all the aforementioned principles and most importantly be nimble in its approach in addressing new and emerging issues. The formula need not require an "Applied Science" degree to understand it.

While reviewing Surrey District's operating budget, we concur with the Surrey Board of Education that these cost components should be recognized and funded in a revised funding allocation system:

**1. Portable costs (see attached Backgrounder):**

Costs incurred by fast-growing districts which are operating at a level of student enrolment beyond designed building capacities and that additional funding be provided for the unique and significant costs of:

- Acquiring, placing, outfitting, operating and maintaining portable classrooms (estimated at about \$10 million for the 2018/2019 year for the Surrey School District),
- Surrey's portable costs should be paid out of a "Special Fund" while waiting for new schools to be built,
- Increased maintenance and operating costs for overcrowded school buildings operating on an extended day schedule;

**2. Annual inflation costs:** Annual inflation costs for such things as supplies, services, energy and employee benefits;

**3. Special needs costs:** The full cost of supporting services for students with special needs and indexed to their respective collective agreements. For example, the full cost of a worker for a Level 1 special needs student, requires a 1:1 worker is approximately \$55K and is currently being funded at \$38,140 resulting in a shortage of approximately \$17K.

**4. Community Link Services:** The full cost of supporting Community Link Services such as school meals and other programs supporting services for our most vulnerable and high-need students and communities. Surrey district is the destination of many young families and in application of fairness and equity principles, these programs need to be reassessed with their neighbouring cities.

**5. Technology:** Technology infrastructure, hardware, software and support services;

**6. Salary increases:** Salary increases for non-unionized employee groups;

**7. Assets:** The full costs required to appropriately maintain district facilities (AFG funding) to ensure these assets are kept to a standard that fully meets the operational and educational needs of our students.

Overall, the new funding formula needs to address all the cost components as discussed above. Most importantly, for Surrey and growing districts, the formula needs to include dollars to address growth (similar for declining enrollment) and the unique characteristics of portables and its related costs. Capital Funding must be set aside for

new schools/ additions/ expansions (Five Year Capital Plan) and not be placed in the same pool as that of school replacement, building envelope program, school enhancement program, carbon neutral capital program, or seismic mitigation program.

We understand that the terms of reference for this Committee do not indicate that there is an availability of new education funds. We urge the Committee to advocate for an increase to education funding grant from the government for both operating and capital funding. If we only re-allocate or recut the existing pie (education funding) with no new money, some programs will have a reduction in funds while another area realize an increase in funding.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide constructive feedback and are hopeful the new formula will address some of our concerns.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, please feel free to contact me via email at [president@surreydpac.ca](mailto:president@surreydpac.ca)

Sincerely,

*Original Signed*

Karen Tan  
President and Chair, Surrey District Parents Advisory Council (Surrey DPAC)  
E: [president@surreydpac.ca](mailto:president@surreydpac.ca)

Attachments:

1. Backgrounder
2. Surrey DPAC Submission (Fall 2017) to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
3. Picture video explanation of new school funding and approval: [https://youtu.be/ur85GAQ\\_qeo](https://youtu.be/ur85GAQ_qeo)
4. Surrey District's Five Year Capital Plan 2018/19