



March 27, 2015

180980

Dear Board Chairs, Secretary-Treasurers and Superintendents:

Re: Service Delivery Project - Special Purpose Grant for Attendance Support and Wellness

The Ministry of Education is providing school districts with one-time special purpose grants to support implementation of the attendance support and wellness-related recommendations made by the Service Delivery Project, Phase 1 Attendance Support, Wellness and Occupational Safety Working Group in their Spring 2014 report (see Attachment 1 for details). This funding is a strategic investment in support of the implementation of shared services in the K-12 sector, setting up the initiative for long-term success.

A total of \$3.7 million is being distributed to school districts on a funded school-age FTE basis, with a minimum grant amount of \$25,000 (see Attachment 2 for school district allocations). With this funding, school districts will be better able to implement or sustain local attendance support and wellness programming. The funding is to be spent on any of the following areas between now and the end of the 2017/18 school year:

- Systems development
 - Coding and statistics
 - Reporting capacity
- Program development
 - Printing
 - Communication
 - Disability management, return to work, stay at work, etc.
- Training
- Staffing for initial implementation
- Staffing to ensure sustainability of attendance support programs

The Ministry transferred the funds via CDS on March 25, 2015. School districts should report this grant in their Special Purpose funds on their audited Financial Statements and GRE. In future, the Ministry will track key performance indicators through the data submitted through the Employment Data and Analysis System (EDAS).

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A Phase 2 Attendance Support and Wellness Working Group was established in February 2015. The working group is currently developing an implementation plan, including pilots that will take place in the 2015/16 school year. Details of the plan will be communicated to school districts as soon as possible and are expected to provide greater clarity on how and where school districts may want to focus their grant funding.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact Caroline Ponsford, Project Director at (250) 216-6347 or caroline.ponsford@gov.bc.ca. Again, thank you for your continued commitment and service on this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Kot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" and last name "Kot" clearly distinguishable.

Jill Kot
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachments:

1. Summary of Recommendations of the Service Delivery Project – Report of the Attendance Support, Wellness and Occupational Safety Working Group
2. School District Allocations