



July 20, 2026

Ref: 318629

Valene Johnson, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
Email: c/o Lise.Bradshaw@sd23.bc.ca

Dear Valene Johnson:

Thank you for your letter of May 27, 2026, which was also addressed to the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure, regarding the current funding model for school districts in British Columbia. As Minister of Education and Child Care, I am pleased to respond.

As Minister, I am dedicated to supporting all students in getting the quality education they need and deserve to succeed and thrive in school.

School district financial reporting shows around 85 percent of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) costs are related to labour and benefits, funding for which is provided through operating and special grants that increase upon the ratification of each new collective agreement. There are mechanisms within the funding model to assist with geographic factors, enrolment decline, and funding protection.

Since 2016-17, we have more than doubled funding for inclusive supports and services to over \$1 billion this school year for all school districts. Two Provincial School Outreach teams are bringing specialists, including speech-language pathologists, learning support teachers, English Language Learning teachers, behaviour analysts, and counsellors directly into schools. These teams have supported 358 students, in 98 schools across 33 districts, with a focus on rural and remote communities.

Government continues to invest in teacher recruitment and training, with more than \$3 million this school year allocated to support this work. We have also heard that a key area for teacher retention is mentorship. A new teacher mentorship program is launching this year in partnership with the University of British Columbia to help support teachers with their professional growth and career development. We were also happy to see a deal reached with the BC Teachers' Federation, supporting four years of wage enhancements and additional classroom supports.

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Since 2017, the Province has approved more than \$7 billion in school capital investments that are delivering over 47,000 new student seats, with thousands more on the way.

Our government is committed to investing in education and I will continue to work closely and collaboratively with school districts to ensure the success of all students.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

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

Lisa Beare
Minister

cc: Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure