

BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA)
Supporting First Nation Student Success

BC First Nations Education Funding Handbook

Definitions and Explanations to Accompany
the BCTEA Funding Table

2024-2025



www.fnesc.ca/bctea

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Introduction

This Handbook is prepared by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and First Nations Schools Association (FNSEA) to explain Indigenous Services Canada’s (ISC’s) British Columbia Tripartite Education Agreement (*BCTEA Funding Formula – Budget Report Table*), which is sent to First Nations each year. That report shows the components of the BCTEA funding calculations for First Nations schools in British Columbia (BC).

This Handbook is meant to support consistency, transparency and accountability for education funding for First Nations schools, and to assist with tracking school funding to allow for long-term budgeting and financial planning.

This document explains the differences between the K-12 operational funding for BC public schools and First Nations schools. The BCTEA funding formula mirrors public school funding, with adaptations to reflect the unique circumstances of First Nations schools.

Finally, several other funding programs for First Nation schools that are not directly linked to the BCTEA funding formula are also described in this document.

FNESC has also prepared a “BCTEA Funding Estimator Tool” as a resource for First Nations and First Nations schools, which can be used to help First Nations education staff forecast their school funding, based on projected enrolments. To access this tool, please e-mail Min Kim, Data and Funding Analyst, at mink@fnesc.ca.

This Handbook will be updated and redistributed annually as the BCTEA funding components change.

Overview of BCTEA Funding for BC First Nations Schools

This Handbook explains each row of the BCTEA Funding Detail Budget Report Table that is sent to First Nations each year. That table shows the components of the BCTEA funding calculations.

- The funding formula for First Nations schools in BC is established under BCTEA. All First Nation schools, with the exception of schools operated by First Nations that have signed treaties or self-government agreements, are funded using this formula. The BCTEA funding formula is based on the BC Ministry of Education’s funding model for public schools with specific adaptations to reflect the unique circumstances of First Nations schools. The Ministry’s funding model is described in detail in its Operating Grants Manual ([OGM](#)).
- The BCTEA funding formula calculates First Nation schools’ funding allocations using individual enrolment data and factors that apply specifically to each school. The enrolment data reflects the information provided for each First Nation school on ISC’s annual Nominal Roll.

- ISC calculates and provides First Nations schools' funding allocations using its BCTEA Funding Detail Budget Report Table, attached as [Appendix I](#).
- Each year, ISC provides each First Nation with its unique Budget Report Table showing the specific funding calculations for each of its First Nations schools.

This Handbook is written to align with ISC's Budget Report Table ([Appendix I](#)). It does not follow the sequence of the Ministry of Education's OGM. The factors included in First Nations schools' funding allocations, along with the corresponding component of the OGM, are described in [Table 1](#).

Budgeting and Financial Management

- Although this Handbook provides information on the data and factors that result in the overall funding for First Nations schools, **it does not represent the budget for the school**. School principals, with their School Governing Authorities, should use the total funding available to the school to develop a budget that meets their unique needs and circumstances. First Nations are encouraged to use the BCTEA funding flexibly to address their specific school needs; spending does not have to match the components used to calculate the overall funding amount for each school.
- The BCTEA funding model for First Nations schools has been in place since 2018 and provides First Nations schools with a stable and predictable funding model (although it is based on enrolment and funding will fluctuate with changing student population numbers). This allows School Governing Authorities to develop multi-year financial plans to support the school's operational needs and school improvement efforts.
- Generally speaking, financial management measures in operating a school must ensure that the available resources adequately support, among other things:
 - the recruitment and retention of appropriate personnel;
 - instruction and education programming;
 - language and culture programming, including related curriculum and resource development, immersion teaching (if relevant) and on-the-land learning opportunities;
 - the maintenance of a safe school environment that fosters learning;
 - professional development for school staff;
 - programs and services to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities;
 - computers, laptops and technology needed to perform administrative tasks and facilitate learning, including language and culture learning;
 - extra-curricular activities;
 - transportation of students;
 - library operations and learning resources; and
 - career exploration, awareness, and skills training opportunities for students.
- Any surpluses that are accrued should be monitored by the First Nation and the School Governing Authority and used to address priorities for the First Nation school.

- For more information regarding School Governing Authorities and their financial management responsibilities, please refer to: ***A Handbook for First Nation School Governing Authorities***, found in [FNESC’s publication catalogue](#).

What is New?

New BCTEA Rate for 2024/25

- BCTEA rates were adjusted to align with increases in the provincial Operating Grants Manual (OGM) 2024/25 rates. The updated rates are as follows:

BCTEA FACTOR	2023/24	2024/25
Basic Allocation	\$ 8,625	\$ 8,915
Adult Education	\$ 8,625	\$ 8,915
English Language Learning (ELL) Allocation	\$ 1,735	\$ 1,795
Indigenous Education	\$ 1,710	\$ 1,770
Small Community Supplement		
<i>Elementary Small Community 8 and under</i>	\$ 115,425	\$ 119,350
<i>Elementary Small Community maximum</i>	\$ 242,452	\$ 250,691
<i>Elementary Small Community reduction rate</i>	\$ 1,732	\$ 1,791
<i>Small Remote - Small Community with 15 or fewer elementary FTEs</i>	\$ 246,000	\$ 254,365
<i>Small Remote - Small Community - 16 to 75 elementary FTEs</i>	\$ 276,500	\$ 285,900
<i>Secondary Small Community incremental rate</i>	\$ 6,971	\$ 7,208
<i>Secondary Small Community maximum</i>	\$ 697,105	\$ 720,752
<i>Secondary Small Community reduction rate</i>	\$ 1,303	\$ 1,347
<i>Grade 11 & 12 Small Community incremental rate</i>	\$ 18,830	\$ 19,470
<i>Grade 11 & 12 Small Community maximum</i>	\$ 282,450	\$ 292,050
<i>Grade 11 & 12 Small Community reduction rate</i>	\$ 1,412	\$ 1,460

Continued Since 2023/2024

- Permanent Revision to Definition of “School Age Student” (Students Aged 4 to 21)**

To align with BCTEA, effective as of the 2023-2024 school year, ISC revised the BC Region Nominal Roll eligible age range for “school age students” to include ages 4 through 21 (previously, the range was ages 4 through 19) for those students who are ordinarily resident on-reserve. School-age students in this expanded age range (20 to 21) are now included in the following additional BCTEA funding components: English language learning, Indigenous education, student location factor, language and culture, rural supplement, climate supplement, and small community supplement.

- **Temporary First Nations Adult Education Investment Funding:
Enhancement of the BCTEA Formula from 2023-24 through 2026-27 (Students Aged 22 and Older)**

The Federal Budget 2021 announced \$350 million over 5 years, beginning in 2022-23, intended to help adult learners who are ordinarily resident on-reserve complete and upgrade their secondary education. BC Region's total funding allocation of \$24.1 million (approximately \$6 million annually over 4 years), is available to BC First Nations *beginning in 2023 until the end of March 2027*.

A portion of this annual funding is distributed by ISC directly to First Nations as adaptations to the BCTEA funding formula for ISC-approved First Nation Schools and Adult Education Centres. Specifically, students age of 22 and older (adult students) will generate funding at the same level as students who are under the age of 22 (school-age students as defined for Nominal Roll purposes). The funding adaptations include the following factors from the BCTEA funding formula: English language learning, Indigenous education, student location factor, language and culture, rural supplement, climate supplement, small community supplement (secondary), small community supplement (Grade 11 & 12), and enrolment decline. Please note that this funding has different budget coding than the Elementary/Secondary Education Program.

Important reminders

- All BCTEA-funded First Nation communities and schools are required to participate in ISC's annual Nominal Roll data collection process according to the established deadlines.
- The BCTEA funding formula is a funding rate, not a spending rate. First Nation School Governing Authorities can set their own budgets based on their local needs and priorities.

The BCTEA funding formula is related to federally-funded students who are included on ISC's annual Nominal Roll. Students who are funded through the **Reciprocal Tuition Agreement** with the BC Ministry of Education are **not included** in the BCTEA funding calculations and are not addressed in this Funding Handbook.

You can find more information about the **Reciprocal Tuition Agreement** in the [Reciprocal Tuition Handbook for Non-Independent First Nations Schools](#).

Table 1: Comparison of the OGM And BCTEA Funding Formula Components

ROW	BCTEA FACTOR	RELATIONSHIP TO OGM	OGM TABLE
1	Basic Allocation	Duplicate of OGM	Table 2b
2	Adult Education	Adapted from OGM	Table 4b
3-5	Enrolment Decline	Duplicate of OGM	Table 3a/3b
6	English Language Learning (ELL)	Adapted from OGM	Table 4b
7	Indigenous Education	Duplicate of OGM	Table 4b
8-11	Small Community Supplement	Duplicate of OGM	Table 6a
12-14	Low Enrolment	Adapted from OGM	Table 6b
15	Rural Supplement	Adapted from OGM	Table 6c
16	Salary Differential	Adapted from OGM	Table 5
17	Climate Supplement	Adapted from OGM	Table 6d
18	Curriculum & Learning Support	Adapted from OGM	Table 8
19	Student Location Factor	Adapted from OGM	Table 6f
20	Non-Formula (Non-OGM)	Not in OGM	-
21-23	Non-Formula (Technology)	Not in OGM	-
24	Equity of Opportunity	Adapted from OGM	Table 4c
25	Education Minor Capital	Not in OGM	-
26	Language and Culture	Not in OGM	-
27	Transportation	Not in OGM	-
28	Funding Protection	Duplicate of OGM	Table 7

As previously indicated, the BCTEA funding formula is based on the BC Ministry of Education's funding model for public schools, with specific adaptations to reflect the unique circumstances of First Nation schools. As seen in the table above, some of the BCTEA funding formula components match components in BC's Operating Grants Manual, while other components are adapted or are not included in the OGM.

The Operating Grants Manual (OGM) for BC Public Schools is available at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/resource-management/k-12-funding-and-allocation/operating-grants>

BCTEA Funding Detail Budget Report Table 2024/25

In this Handbook, the reference to “row number” corresponds to the row in ISC’s BCTEA Funding Detail Budget Report Table, included in [Appendix I](#).

ISC’s Table also includes a column showing “Factor” and “Amount.” The “*Factor times the Amount*” determines the “Allocation.” The relevant Factor and Amount for each row are described in this Handbook.

Row 1: Basic Allocation

The BCTEA funding formula includes a basic allocation for each eligible school-age (ages 4 through 21) full-time equivalent (FTE) student (K4 to Grade 12) enrolled in a First Nations school and reported in the ISC Nominal Roll September enrolment count.

First Nations schools’ funding allocations include: **\$8,915 (Amount) for each school-age FTE student (Factor)**.

Row 2: Adult Education

The BCTEA funding formula provides a basic amount for adult students (age 22 and above) who are eligible to be reported in the ISC Nominal Roll September enrolment count.

First Nations schools’ funding allocations include: **\$8,915 (Amount) for each adult student FTE (Factor)**.

Rows 3 – 5: Enrolment Decline

Corresponding with the provincial funding model, the BCTEA funding formula includes a factor to account for declining enrolments, calculated as follows.

FTEs 1 Year Previous

- For each school-age FTE student greater than a 1% decline, but less than or equal to a 4% decline from the previous September: **50% of the current year’s Basic Allocation amount (see Row 1 Basic Allocation explanation)**
- For each school-age FTE student greater than a 4% decline from the previous September: **75% of the current year’s Basic Allocation amount (see Row 1 Basic Allocation explanation)**

Note: *Decline is the change in enrolment between the September 30 enrolment of the current school year and the September 30 enrolment of the previous school year.*

FTEs 3 Years Previous

- For each school-age FTE student greater than a 7% decline between the previous September and the September two years prior: **50% of the current year’s Basic Allocation amount (see Row 1 Basic Allocation explanation)**

Row 6: English Language Learning (ELL)

To correspond with English Language Learning (ELL) grants provided in the provincial funding model, the BCTEA funding formula includes ELL funding to support improvements in literacy for students in First Nations schools. 22.6% was determined as a proxy for the rate of ELL students using historical data.

First Nations schools’ funding allocations include: **\$1,795 (Amount) times 22.6% of total school-age headcount students.**

Row 7: Indigenous Education

To correspond with the Indigenous Education grants (also known as targeted funds) provided in the provincial education system, First Nations schools’ funding allocations include: **\$1,770 (Amount) for each school-age headcount student (Factor).**

Rows 8 – 11: Small Community Supplement

In the provincial funding model, a Small Community Supplement is provided to school districts with a student population that is below an established minimum enrolment number. The Small Community Supplement is based on the previous year’s enrolment. For example, for the 2024/25 school year, the supplement was determined using the funded FTE enrolment as of September 29, 2023. First Nations schools’ funding allocations include a corresponding supplement, calculated using the following formulas.

Elementary

Eligibility: Schools with 250 or fewer elementary school-age FTE students

For schools with fewer than 8 elementary FTEs:	\$119,350 for each community
For school with 8 to 110 elementary FTEs:	\$250,691 for each community
For schools with 111 to 250 elementary FTEs:	The \$250,691 maximum minus \$1,790.65 for each elementary school-age FTE student over 110

or Elementary Remote

Eligibility: Schools with 75 or fewer elementary school-age FTE students **AND** meeting at least one of the following criteria:

- The school is located at least 40 km by road from the next nearest First Nation or public elementary school
- The school is located at least 5 km from the next nearest First Nation or public elementary school *that can only be accessed by gravel road, logging road or by water*

For schools with 15 or fewer elementary FTEs: **\$254,365 base amount per each community**

For schools with 16 to 75 elementary FTEs: **\$285,900 base amount per each community**

Note: A community can only be eligible for **one of Elementary or Elementary Remote**.

Secondary

Eligibility: Schools with 635 or fewer secondary school-age FTE students

For schools with 100 or fewer secondary FTEs: **\$7,207.52 per school-age FTE student**

For schools with 101 to 635 secondary FTEs: **\$720,752 maximum minus \$1,347.20 for each school-age secondary FTE student over 100**

and Grade 11 and 12

Eligibility: Schools eligible for the Secondary Small School Supplement (above), **and** with school-age FTE students in Grades 11 and/or 12

For schools with 15 or fewer Grade 11 & 12 FTEs: **\$19,470 per school-age FTE student**

For schools with 16 to 215 Grade 11 & 12 FTEs: **\$292,050 maximum minus \$1,460.25 for each school-age grade 11 & 12 FTE student over 15**

Rows 12 – 14: Low Enrolment

A Low Enrolment Factor in the provincial funding model is calculated based on the previous year's enrolment.

For comparability, the BCTEA funding formula includes a Low Enrolment supplement that is based on the provincial calculation for the 5 smallest school districts (e.g., No. 50 Haida Gwaii; No. 49 Central Coast; No. 84 Vancouver Island West; No. 92 Nisga'a; and No. 87 Stikine).

Specifically, First Nations schools' funding allocations include: **a \$33,061 base amount for each school plus \$1,322 for each school-age and adult FTE student.**

Row 15: Rural Supplement

In the provincial funding model, a Rural Factor is calculated based on a consideration of the population of the city in which the School Board office is located and distances from the Board office to Vancouver and the nearest regional centre.

The BCTEA funding formula includes a comparable supplement, calculated using the public school rural index for the First Nation school's associated school district and the current year's Basic Amount (Row 1).

First Nations schools' funding allocations include: **(Basic Allocation as per Row 1 x school-age FTE students) x Rural Index x 20% weighting factor.**

Row 16: Salary Differential

In the provincial funding model, a supplement for Salary Differential provides additional funding to school districts that pay higher than average teacher salaries.

Corresponding to this provincial funding, the BCTEA funding formula includes an amount that is based on the average salary differential in the provincial system.

Specifically, First Nations schools' funding allocations include: **\$180.33 (Amount) for each school-age and adult FTE student (Factor).**

Row 17: Climate Supplement

In the provincial funding model, a Climate Index is calculated for each school district, representing the number of heating and cooling days above the provincial minimum.

The BCTEA funding formula includes a comparable supplement, calculated using the Climate Index for the First Nation school's associated school district and the current year's Basic Amount (Row 1).

First Nations schools' funding allocations include: **(Basic Amount as per Row 1 x school-age FTE students) x Climate Index x 6% weighting factor.**

Row 18: Curriculum & Learning Support

Since 2013/2014, the provincial funding model includes a supplement to assist school districts with implementing initiatives as part of the Province of BC's Education Plan.

The BCTEA funding formula includes a corresponding supplement, which was renamed Curriculum and Learning Support beginning in 2019/20.

First Nations schools' funding allocations include: **\$9 (Amount) for each school-age and adult FTE student (Factor).**

Row 19: Student Location Factor

Until 2011/2012, the provincial funding model included a supplement for Transportation. In 2012/2013, the Ministry of Education eliminated the transportation funding allocation and replaced it with the supplement for Unique Geographic Factors – Student Location Factor. The Student Location Factor provides funding to districts based on enrolment and the school-age population density of communities within that district.

The BCTEA funding formula includes a corresponding supplement for Student Location, which is calculated based on the per FTE amount of funding allocated to the First Nation school's associated school district, applied to the school's school-age FTEs.

First Nations schools' funding allocations include: **the relevant school district's student location factor per pupil amount x the total number of school-age FTE students.**

Note: For Rows 15, 17, and 19 (the Rural and Climate supplements and Student Location Factor), First Nations schools' funding allocations are based in part on factors determined by the "associated school district" or the school district in which the First Nation is located. For ISC's list of First Nations and their associated school districts, see [Appendix II](#).

Row 20: Non-Formula (Non-OGM)

This element of the BCTEA funding formula is **not** included in the provincial Operating Grants Manual, but it corresponds to other **Special Purpose Grants** provided to public Boards of Education. Those special purpose grants provide additional funding to meet students' different needs. These grants provide Boards of Education anywhere from 10% - 20% of funding in addition to their operating grants.

The non-OGM rate is calculated as the proportion of non-formula funding for school districts over the net operating grant funding, based on the financial statements of the previous school year.

For 2023/24, the non-OGM funding rate for First Nations schools was calculated as 22.73%. For 2024/25, the estimated non-OGM funding for First Nations schools is: **19.52% of the Total School FTE funding.**

The list of non-OGM funding included in the 2024/25 school year is:

1. Next Generation Network
2. Classroom Enhancement Fund
3. Learning Improvement Fund
4. Annual Facility Grant (Operating Portion)
5. Pay Equity
6. Student Transportation Fund
7. Mental Health in Schools
8. MyEdBC

9. Support Staff Benefits and
10. CommunityLINK
11. FSA Scorer Grant
12. Student & Family Affordability Fund
13. Feeding Futures Fund
14. Labour settlement Funding
15. Feeding Futures Capital Infrastructure Fund

Further details of these non-OGM fundings are described in [Appendix III](#).

Rows 21 - 23: Technology Support

BCeSIS

The provincial funding model provides annual funding to Boards of Education for the operation of BCeSIS (now named MyEdBC). The BCTEA model provides a corresponding allocation to address student information requirements.

First Nations schools' funding allocations include Technology Funding calculated as: **BCeSIS funding (\$20) for each school-age and adult headcount student**

Technology Funding

The provincial funding model provides annual funding to Boards of Education for Next Generation Network (formerly the Provincial Learning Network or PLNet).

The BCTEA model provides a corresponding allocation to address internet connectivity requirements.

First Nations schools' funding allocations include Technology Funding calculated as: the **Internet Connectivity funding that is provided directly by ISC to each First Nations community in 2024/25**.

Row 24: Equity Of Opportunity

In the provincial funding model, until 2019/20, a funding supplement was provided to school districts to assist with the provision of services to Vulnerable Students. That supplement was in addition to the provincial CommunityLINK special purpose grant.¹

Beginning in 2020/21, the Vulnerable Student Supplement and a portion of Curriculum and Learning Support fund were replaced with a new supplement called Equity of Opportunity. This new supplement provides funding to districts to support additional services to students, recognizing children and youth in care, children and youth receiving non-clinical mental health supports, and low-income families in the school district.

Corresponding to this funding, the BCTEA funding formula includes a grant amount that is determined based on the provincial Equity of Opportunity funding provided to School District No. 92 (Nisga'a), which has the largest Indigenous student population.

First Nations schools' funding allocations include: **\$154.03 (Amount) for each school-age and adult FTE student (Factor).**

Row 25: Education Minor Capital

The provincial funding model provides an Annual Facility Grant (AFG) to Boards of Education for capital maintenance and improvements to school buildings, such as mechanical and electrical upgrades, roofing, upgrades to interior and exterior building envelopes, addressing risk management issues, accessibility, and other functional improvements to schools.

First Nations schools' funding allocations include a corresponding calculation of Education Minor Capital (replacing Operations and Maintenance (O&M): **\$120 (Amount) for each school-age and adult FTE student (Factor).**

This calculation represents a historical amount transferred by ISC's Community Infrastructure Program.

Note: Funding for major capital is not included in BCTEA funding.

Row 26: Language And Culture Funding

Federal funding of \$3.6 million was provided in Budget 2016 for Language and Culture, originally funded under the New Paths for Education program. Since the New Paths for Education program ended, this funding is now part of the BCTEA funding formula, calculated as: **\$1,195 (Amount) for each school-age headcount student (Factor).**

¹ CommunityLINK (Learning Includes Nutrition and Knowledge) funding is designed to support the academic achievement and social functioning of vulnerable students. Programs and services can include breakfast, lunch and snack programs, academic supports, counseling, youth workers and after-school programs. CommunityLINK provides \$59.16 million in funding to all 60 school districts.

Row 27: Transportation

The supplement for Unique Geographic Factors – Student Location Factor provides funding generally intended to fund transportation of students to schools.

Funding provided to First Nations under the Student Location Factor has been recognized as inadequate to transport First Nation students to schools on reserve. As a result, additional funding of \$2 million has been allocated for Transportation.

The Transportation funding is now allocated in the BCTEA funding model based on Weighted Eligible Enrolment (WEE) multiplied by prescribed transportation per student rates, and is determined as follows:

Enrolment Weighting Factors

- K4 to Grade 3: 100%
- Grade 4 to 12: 80%
- Adults: 50%

Total Weighted Eligible Enrolment (WEE) = (K4 to Grade 3 Enrolment) x 100% + (Grade 4 to 12 Enrolment) x 80% + (Adult Enrolment) x 50%

Transportation Student Rate based on WEE

- If WEE is [0 to 23], then the rate is: \$993.50
- If WEE is [23 to 35], then the rate is: \$864.60
- If WEE is [35 to 47], then the rate is: \$713.80
- If WEE is [> 47], then the rate is: \$547.30

First Nations schools' funding allocations for Transportation include: **Transportation Student Rate (Amount) times the Total Weighted Eligible Enrolment (Factor).**

Row 28: Funding Protection

A Funding Protection mechanism is being implemented based on the Ministry of Education funding formula. Funding Protection is intended to ensure that First Nations are provided with stable, sustainable, and predictable funding. Funding Protection is an additional amount to protect against any funding decline larger than 1.5% when compared to the previous year.

- Funding protection is determined by comparing the total operating grants calculated by the BC First Nations Education Funding Model for the previous school year to the total operating grants for the current school year; and
- Funding Protection will apply to all components of the BC First Nations Education Funding Model as set out in this BC First Nations Education Funding Handbook.

First Nation School Funding Administered by FNEC

First Nations Language Program Funding

(This funding is not within the scope of the K-12 BCTEA formula; it is BCTEA funding managed by FNEC and FNSA) <http://www.fnsa.ca/language-and-culture>

BCTEA includes annual funding to support the First Nations Language and Culture Programming (FNLCP) of First Nations schools in BC. This funding is in addition to the Language and Culture funding that is allocated as part of the BCTEA funding allocation (calculated as \$1,195 for each school-age headcount student).

FNLCP funding of approximately \$14 million is provided directly to First Nations schools through a school-grant allocation process.

Schools are provided a base amount of funding (allocated per First Nation, not per school), recognizing that needs exist in all First Nations schools in the province. That base amount is supplemented by a per capita-determined allocation to account for differing school sizes.

First Nations schools access their FNLCP grants through the submission of workplans that detail the activities to be undertaken according to the eligible expenditures.

Collective activities also are implemented each year, including coaching for language and culture teaching, as well as professional development and information sharing opportunities.

For more information, contact languagefunding@fnesc.ca

Special Education Program (SEP) Funding

(This funding is not within the scope of the K-12 BCTEA formula; it is BCTEA funding managed by FNEsc and FNSA. Please see www.fnsa.ca/sep for more information.)

FNEsc and FNSA manage Special Education Program (SEP) funding and services for First Nation students who are eligible to be on the ISC Nominal Roll and who attend a First Nation school in BC.

The majority of the funding available for this program is allocated to First Nation schools through a school-grant process. Each year, all schools are provided a base amount of funding (allocated per First Nation, not per school), recognizing that needs exist in all First Nation schools in the province. That base amount is supplemented by a per capita-determined allocation to account for differing school sizes.

Eligible schools are also provided a grant to assist them in accessing Speech Language Pathology (SLP) and Occupational Therapy (OT) services. These grants are calculated using a base-plus-per capital formula, with a remoteness factor to account for varying geographic locations.

First Nation schools access their SEP school-based and SLP/OT grants through the submission of workplans that detail the activities to be undertaken and a program budget.

In addition to their regular base-plus-per-capita determined school grants, BC First Nation schools are able to apply for a funding grant to address extraordinary special education needs. Applications for this funding require the submission of supporting documentation demonstrating the exceptional needs of individual students. A fixed amount of funding is set aside for this purpose annually, and the available resources are allocated to schools according to the overall number of eligible applications. Therefore, the annual per student allocations vary depending upon changing demand. Schools that are interested in accessing a portion of this additional, separate funding should contact SEP staff; information is distributed to all schools and application forms are accessed through the SEP Portal in the fall and winter of each year. A deadline for applications is strictly applied.

Collective activities are also implemented to maximize the benefits of the SEP funding, including information and advice from SEP staff, supports from specialists, and a range of professional development and resources.

For more information, contact sepfunding@fnesc.ca.

Transportation Capital Funding: School Bus Purchase Program (SBPP)

(This funding is not within the scope of the K-12 BCTEA formula; it is BCTEA funding managed by FNEC and FNSA)

Through BCTEA, Canada provides Transportation Capital Funding, annually, to contribute to the purchase of school buses to transport Nominal Roll (NR) students to First Nations schools. The funding that is available may not be sufficient to meet all needs immediately. FNEC and FNSA manage approximately \$2.4 million a year for this purpose.

Consistent with BCTEA, a Transportation Capital Policy approved by the FNSA Board and FNEC Executive determines the allocation of these funds to replace “below standard” school transportation vehicles with new “standard” school buses. This program began in 2017/18 and seven funding cycles have been completed as of June 2024.

Each year, a transportation survey is used to gather comprehensive information about First Nations schools’ vehicles, including variables such as vehicle type (whether it is a bus, van, or car, etc.), vehicle age, and odometer reading. Funding allocations are based on this survey data, as the information is used to prioritize replacement needs.

For reference, the following vehicle age and odometer/distance benchmarks are used by the BC public school system for their school bus replacement considerations.

School Bus Type	Passenger Capacity	Age (Years)	Distance (KMs)
<i>Type A2</i>	<i>20-29</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>250,000</i>
<i>Type C</i>	<i>34-76</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>325,000</i>
<i>Type D-RE & D-FE</i>	<i>80+</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>400,000</i>

For the First Nation schools transportation capital program, after all student safety concerns have been fully addressed and if additional funding becomes available in the future, the transportation capital policy could be updated to consider service expansion options, by supporting new routes (currently unserved), expanding existing routes (currently underserved), or both.

For more information, contact AJ Orena, Manager, Data Analysis, FNEC at ajo@fnesc.ca.

APPENDIX I: ISC BCTEA Funding Detail Budget Report Table

ROW#	FUNDING COMPONENT	SEPTEMBER 2024 SCHOOL YEAR
		FACTOR/AMOUNT
1	Basic Allocation	8,915
2	Adult Education	8,915
3	Enrolment Decline	
4	<i>(FTE 1 year previous)</i>	1%-4%: 50%, >4%: 75%
5	<i>(FTE 3 year previous)</i>	>7%: 50%
6	ELL (English Language Learners)	22.6% * \$1,795
7	Aboriginal Education	1,770
8	Small Community Supplement	
9	<i>Elementary</i>	# 7 - 110
10	<i>Secondary</i>	# 100 - 635
11	<i>Grade 11 & 12</i>	# 15 - 215
12	Low Enrolment	1,322
13	<i>(FTEs)</i>	33,061
14	<i>(Schools)</i>	
15	Rural Supplement	Basic Amount * 20% * Factor
16	Salary Differential	180.33
17	Climate Supplement	Basic Amount * 6% * Factor
18	Curriculum & Learning Support	9
19	Student Location Factor	
20	Non-formula (non-OGM)	19.52%
21	Technology Support (Non-formula)	
22	BCeSIS Funding	20
23	Non-formula (Technology)	
24	Equity of Opportunity	154.03
25	Education Minor Capital	120
26	Language & Culture	1,195
27	Transportation	993.50 / 864.60 / 713.80 / 547.30
28	BCTEA Funding Protection	

APPENDIX II:

ISC list of First Nations and associated School Districts (A-Z)

BAND#	BAND NAME	SD#	SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME
602	?AQAM	5	SOUTH EAST KOOTENAY
684	ADAMS LAKE INDIAN BAND	73	KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON
659	AHOUSAHT INDIAN BAND	70	PACIFIC RIM
622	CAMPBELL RIVER INDIAN BAND	72	CAMPBELL RIVER
693	COLDWATER INDIAN BAND	58	NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN
642	COWICHAN	79	COWICHAN VALLEY
662	Ditidaht First Nation	70	PACIFIC RIM
561	DOUGLAS INDIAN BAND	78	FRASER-CASCADE
636	DZAWADA'ENUXW FIRST NATION	85	VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH
711	ESK'ETEMC	27	CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN
543	FORT NELSON FIRST NATION	81	FORT NELSON
531	GITANMAAX	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
537	GITANYOW	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
675	GITGA'AT FIRST NATION	52	PRINCE RUPERT
535	GITSEGUKLA INDIAN BAND	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
536	GITWANGAK INDIAN BAND	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
672	GITXAALA NATION	52	PRINCE RUPERT
533	GLEN VOWELL	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
724	GWA'SALA-NAKWAXDA'XW INDIAN BAND	85	VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH
676	HAIsla NATION	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
538	HEILTSUK INDIAN BAND	49	CENTRAL COAST
661	HESQUIAHT	70	PACIFIC RIM
683	ISKUT INDIAN BAND	87	STIKINE
532	KISPIOX	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
540	KITASOO XAI'XAIS NATION	49	CENTRAL COAST
680	KITSELAS INDIAN BAND	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
681	KITSUMKALUM INDIAN BAND	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
610	KWADACHA NATION	87	STIKINE
626	KWAKIUTL INDIAN BAND	85	VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH
607	LAKE BABINE NATION	91,54	NECHAKO LAKES, BULKLEY VALLEY
674	LAX KW'ALAAMS INDIAN BAND	52	PRINCE RUPERT
721	LHOOSK'UZ DENE NATION	28	QUESNEL
557	LIL'WAT NATION	48	SEA TO SKY
606	LOWER KOOTENAY INDIAN BAND	8	KOOTENAY LAKE
695	LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND	58	NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN
598	LOWER SIMILKAMEEN BAND	53	OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
705	LYTTON INDIAN BAND	74	GOLD TRAIL
630	MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT	84	VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST
550	MUSQUEAM INDIAN BAND	39	VANCOUVER
612	NADLEH WHUTEN	91	NECHAKO LAKES
614	NAK'AZDLI WHUT'EN	91	NECHAKO LAKES
631	NAMGIS FIRST NATION	85	VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH
649	NANOOSE FIRST NATION	68	NANAIMO-LADYSMITH
690	NESKONLITH INDIAN BAND	73	KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON
556	N'QUATQUA INDIAN BAND	48	SEA TO SKY

BAND#	BAND NAME	SD#	SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME
539	NUXALK NATION BAND	49	CENTRAL COAST
616	OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND	23	CENTRAL OKANAGAN
669	OLD MASSETT VILLAGE COUNCIL BAND	50	HAIDA GWAI
596	OSOYOOS INDIAN BAND	53	OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
658	PACHEEDAHT FIRST NATION	62	SOOKE
650	PENELAKUT TRIBE	79	COWICHAN VALLEY
597	PENTICTON INDIAN BAND	67	OKANAGAN-SKAHA
544	PROPHET RIVER FIRST NATION	81	FORT NELSON
633	QUATSINO INDIAN BAND	85	VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH
542	SAULTEAU FIRST NATIONS	59	PEACE RIVER SOUTH
581	SEABIRD ISLAND INDIAN BAND	78	FRASER-CASCADE
691	SIMPCW FIRST NATION	73	KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON
562	SKATIN	78	FRASER-CASCADE
687	SKEETCHESTN INDIAN BAND	73	KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON
670	SKIDEGATE INDIAN BAND	50	HAIDA GWAI
573	SKWAH INDIAN BAND	33	CHILLIWACK
648	SNUNEMYXW FIRST NATION	68	NANAIMO-LADYSMITH
656	SONGHEES NATION	61	GREATER VICTORIA
600	SPLATSIN	83	NORTH OKANAGAN-SHUSWAP
555	SQUAMISH INDIAN BAND	44,48	NORTH VANCOUVER, SEA TO SKY
574	SQUIALA FIRST NATION	36	SURREY
613	STELLAT'EN FIRST NATION	91	NECHAKO LAKES
559	STS'AILES BAND	78	FRASER-CASCADE
723	STSWECEM'C XGET'EM FIRST NATION	74	GOLD TRAIL
641	STZ'UMINUS FIRST NATION	68	NANAIMO-LADYSMITH
578	SUMAS FIRST NATION	34	ABBOTSFORD
608	TAKLA NATION	91	NECHAKO LAKES
593	T'IT'Q'ET	74	GOLD TRAIL
688	TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC	73	KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON
660	TLA-O-QUI-AHT	70	PACIFIC RIM
617	TL'AZT'EN NATION	91	NECHAKO LAKES
712	TL'ETINQOX GOVERNMENT	27	CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN
595	TSAL'ALH	74	GOLD TRAIL
653	TSARTLIP INDIAN BAND	63	SAANICH
609	TSAY KEH DENE BAND	91	NECHAKO LAKES
665	TSESHAHT	70	PACIFIC RIM
710	TŚIDELDEL FIRST NATION	27	CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN
549	TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION	44	NORTH VANCOUVER
657	T'SOU-KE FIRST NATION	62	SOOKE
713	TSQ'ESSEN' First Nation	27	CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN
722	ULKATCHO INDIAN BAND	27	CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN
697	UPPER NICOLA INDIAN BAND	58	NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN
623	WE WAI KAI NATION	72	CAMPBELL RIVER
719	WILLIAMS LAKE FIRST NATION	27	CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN
530	WITSET FIRST NATION	82	COAST MOUNTAINS
592	XAXLI'P INDIAN BAND	74	GOLD TRAIL
728	YEKOOOCHE FIRST NATION	91	NECHAKO LAKES
717	YUNESIT'IN GOVERNMENT	27	CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN

APPENDIX III: Definitions of 2023/24 Non-OGM fundings

FUNDING	DEFINITION
Next Generation Network	Next Generation Network (NGN) provides modern high-speed internet infrastructure that services all public schools in the province. Implementation began in 2014, replacing the former Provincial Learning Network.
Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF)	A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Ministry of Education, BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) was signed in 2017 to restore class size and composition language to local collective agreements. CEF was created to fund the implementation of the MoA at the district level. CEF is a complex, cost-based funding process that is unique to each school district, determined by class size and composition limits, as well as specialist teacher ratios.
Learning Improvement Fund (LIF)	LIF provides ongoing funding to school districts for the hiring of Educational Assistants (EAs) to support students with disabilities and diverse needs.
Annual Facility Grant	The Annual Facility Grant is intended for annual facility projects required to maintain facility assets through their anticipated economic life and to prevent premature deterioration of these assets. The amount of a board of education's annual facility grant is calculated using a formula based on student enrolment and average age of facilities, with adjustments for unique geographic factors.
Pay Equity	Pay Equity is a special grant provided to all districts, which recognizes that workers who perform work of equal value, though not identical or similar work, should be paid equally.
Student Transportation Fund (STF)	The STF is a special grant provided to school districts to assist with improving transportation services for students. The STF is calculated based on a formula tied to the Student Location Factor, a component of the operating grant formula that is used to determine the rural make-up of a school district.
Mental Health in Schools	The Mental Health grant provides school districts and FISA BC with an opportunity to build capacity in mental health and well-being related knowledge, skills, and resources in school communities.
MyEd BC	These funds are intended to help school districts implement and maintain the MyEdBC reporting system.

FUNDING	DEFINITION
Support Staff Benefits	In the 2014 and 2019 collective bargaining with support staff unions, it was agreed that funds would be put aside to standardize benefits across plans. This grant reflects that funding and comes out of the envelope of funds allotted to those negotiations.
CommunityLINK	CommunityLINK (Learning Includes Nutrition and Knowledge) is a special grant that supports the academic achievement and social functioning of vulnerable students. Programs and services can include breakfast, lunch and snack programs, academic supports, counselling, youth workers, and after-school programs.
FSA Scorer Grant	This grant is intended to subsidize the costs of FSA marking sessions.
Student & Family Affordability Fund	This grant is intended to help schools provide support directly to families, including helping pay for student necessities such as school supplies, school fees and class trips, as well as additional costs associated with joining a school sports team or music program.
Feeding Futures Fund (School Food Program)	To support K-12 students and their families with accessing healthy foods at school, this grant is meant to help reduce food insecurity.
Labour Settlement Funding	Following the ratification of collective agreements, Labour Settlement Funding includes cost of living adjustment, teacher & support staff benefit enhancements, and management salary increases.
Feeding Futures Capital Infrastructure Fund	To create, improve, or expand infrastructure that will support food programs through project such as food-delivery vans and kitchen upgrades, including electrical upgrades and the purchase of commercial-kitchen equipment.