

June 11, 2024

Honourable Rachna Singh  
Minister of Education & Child Care  
Via email: [Ecc.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ecc.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Wage Settlement Funding**

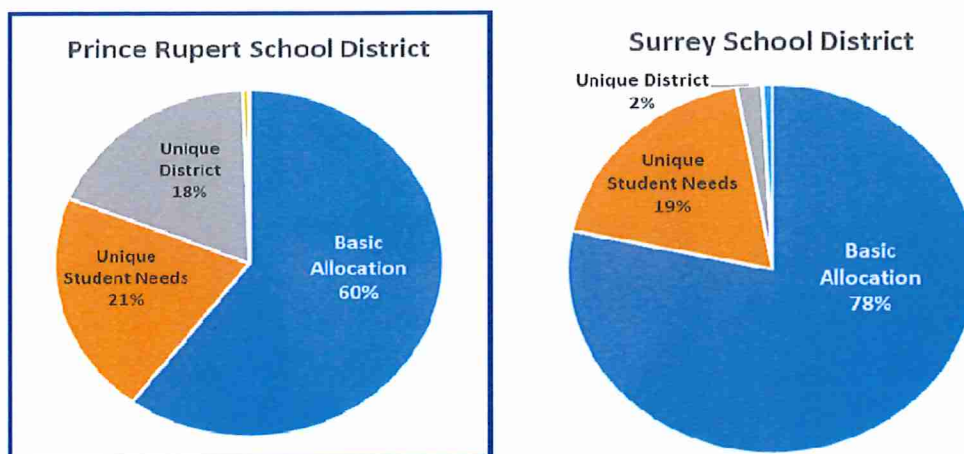
Honourable Minister:

The Board of Education for School District 52 (Prince Rupert) is concerned with how the Wage Settlement Funding for 2024/25 has been applied to school district funding.

As you know, there are three main components to the School District funding:

- Basic Allocation
- Unique Student Needs
- Unique District Needs

The first two components are mainly calculated on a per student basis. The third item is mainly calculated on individual district geographic characteristics. The geographic components are particularly important to small rural districts. They assist with things like bussing costs, and the cost of running small rural secondary schools. As such, they provide a significant proportion of the funding for them. For example:



The impact for the two school districts above is that Surrey School District receives a 3.4% increase on 98% of its funding, while Prince Rupert receives 3.4% on 81% of its funding and 0.7% on the remaining 19%. For 2024/25, this results in a shortfall of over \$120,000 for our District.



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For small, remote districts, this means that the funding that is used for things like supporting smaller class sizes in remote schools, and paying bus drivers, is eroded each year as wage increases are not supported.

We would ask the Ministry to review how it applies wage settlement funding to the different components of the school district funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Toye", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Toye  
Board Chair

Cc: MLA Jennifer Rice  
All Boards of Education through BC School Trustees Association