

November 9, 2007

Daily Physical Activity

As you may recall, on September 4, 2007 Minister Bond announced that all BC students will be required to participate in Daily Physical Activity by September 2008, as part of [ActNowBC](#). Students in grades K-9 will participate in a minimum of 30 minutes of daily physical activity, and students in grades 10-12 will participate in 150 minutes per week of physical activity. Students will be able to meet these requirements in many ways, including at school during instructional or non-instructional time as well as through physical activity undertaken within the community.

Mandating physical activity for all K-12 students, along with publishing revised Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales for BC Schools, sets the highest school health standards in Canada and positions the province to address the critical issues of sedentary lifestyles and childhood obesity.

The Ministry is working with the British Columbia Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association to select up to 12 schools interested in participating in Daily Physical Activity, beginning January 2008. The objective is to develop and communicate successful implementation models for all grade levels, and in both public and independent schools. On December 3, 2007 the Ministry and the BCPVPA will host a one-day information/planning session with leader schools from the elementary, middle and secondary levels.

A number of documents are being developed to support students, teachers and administrators in the implementation of Daily Physical Activity. These include a program guide with learning outcomes for grades K-9, an administrator guide for grades K-12, grade-

appropriate handbooks for students and an activity resource book for classroom teachers looking for ideas on how to organize Daily Physical Activity in a variety of settings. Look for response drafts of the K-9 Program Guide and the K-9 Activity Resource in December 2007.

Fairer Funding Formula

On October 18th, the Ministry announced an adjustment to the funding formula. This moves away from a student-based funding formula for grades 10-12 to a course-based formula that is more equitable and better enables student choice. The previous, student-based formula included a 0.5 FTE base component that was a hold-over from the previous, cost-based funding allocation system. We want to ensure that funding to school districts is fair and accurately reflects changing enrolment patterns in secondary schools and distributed learning.

Any change involving funding is a delicate issue, and any attempt to redistribute funding in new patterns, no matter how equitable, is a challenge.

However, there is no change to basic block funding. The Ministry will still provide Boards of Education with \$4.345 billion in operating grants in the 2007/08 school year – the highest ever and a \$116 million increase over 2006/07. Operating funding is projected to increase further, by more than \$195 million over the next two years, 2008/09 and 2009/10, as outlined in our three-year rolling budget.

The formula adjustment affects the allocation for students in grades 10-12. The allocation for students in grades K-9 is not affected.

The Ministry held conference calls with senior district staff on October 22nd and again on November 5th to address concerns regarding the formula adjustment in grades 10-12.

You will be pleased to know that support blocks will be funded for students with IEPs and students without IEPs who require additional teacher support to ensure their success.

An allowance has been made to recognize Grad Transitions as a course for this collection. A student can only be funded for Grad Transitions once during the student's graduation program, even if the student changes schools or districts.

Schools will also be able to report students who are taking more than 8 courses.

Over the coming weeks, Boards will be given an opportunity to amend their 1701 submissions to ensure their student data is accurate. The final funding allocations will be communicated to Boards in December.



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