

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Funding Formula Adjustment**

#### **Q 1. Why was the funding formula adjusted?**

- Before we announced changes in the funding formula last month, students taking as few as 4 courses were funded at the same level as those taking eight. In addition, any student taking Distributed Learning courses received additional funding.
- For example: when a student enrolled in 4 courses in a regular classroom and two Distributed Learning courses the district would receive 1.25 FTE funding even though the student was not taking 8 courses.
- We want to ensure that funding to school districts is fair and accurately reflects changing enrolment patterns.
- The \$4.345 billion committed to Boards of Education for operating grants in the 2007/08 school year, announced in March, will not change.
- This is the highest operating grant budget ever distributed in British Columbia – including an increase of \$116 million over 2006/07.
- The average per pupil grant for 2007/08 is estimated to be a record \$7,932, an increase of \$336 over last year.

**Q2. What does this change look like?**

Previous Formula			New Formula	
Number of courses	Funding level		Number of courses	Funding level
1 course	$0.5 + 0.125 = 0.625$		1 course	0.125
2 courses	$0.5 + 0.25 = 0.750$		2 courses	0.250
3 courses	$0.5 + 0.375 = 0.875$		3 courses	0.375
4 courses	$0.5 + 0.5 = 1$	+DL = DOUBLE FUNDING	4 courses	0.5
5 courses	1		5 courses	0.625
6 courses	1		6 courses	0.75
7 courses	1		7 courses	0.875
8 courses	1		8 courses	1
9 courses	1		9 courses	1.125
10 courses	1		10 courses	1.250

**EXCEPTIONS:**

Special Education	Enrolled + Supplement + Support Block
Alternate Programs	Enrolled + Support Blocks (attendance time)
Semester System	Enrolled - resubmission opportunity
Career Training (CTC)	Funded as previous
Graduation Transitions	One-time funding during grades 10-12

**Q3. Who will be affected by the formula adjustment?**

- Students in Grades 10, 11 and 12.
- Students enrolled in Distributed Learning, who have already graduated or who are older than school-age were not previously eligible for the 0.5 FTE base and ***are therefore not affected.***
- The FTE determination for students in Grades 8 and 9 ***will not be affected.***

**Q4. Does this impact future budget allocations?**

- No. As outlined in our three year rolling budget, operating funding for school districts is projected to increase over \$195 million over the next two years (2008-09 and 2009-10).

**Q5. Some districts have a semester-based program but only put in 4 courses in the September count. Will the Ministry permit a district to input second semester at Second Count in February?**

- Yes. School districts are permitted to amend reports for students whose programs span the entire year, including second semester.
- Instructions will be given to districts by Nov. 9 on how to submit their amended reports. Any changes as a result of these amendments will be reflected in subsequent recalculations of funding.
- The 1701 data collection process in February 2008 remains unchanged.

**Q6. Students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 who attend Bricks and Mortar courses in more than one school, but in the same district, are allowed to exceed 1.0 FTE. Can districts resubmit their 1701 data to provide this level of detail?**

- Yes. School districts will be permitted to amend reports for students whose programs for the entire year were not reported. This includes students who attend more than one school within the same district.
- The process for submitting amended reports will be outlined in detailed procedures to follow and these changes will be reflected in the recalculations of funding.

**Q7. If a student that is not at a full course load, but receives additional supervised support and services, will they be affected by the formula adjustment?**

- If a student is in the school for a full day districts will receive full funding for that student.
- For students on an IEP – school districts may report IEP activity as locally developed courses, as described in the 1701 Instructions and the Course Information for the Graduation Program Grade 10, 11 and 12 Courses 2007-2008 (see pages 168 to 172). This policy has been in place since 2006/07, to support the issuance of school completion certificates and transcripts for students with special needs.
- For this year, school districts that did not use the XSIEP courses to fully recognize support blocks will be permitted to amend reports.
- For students not entitled to an IEP but attending support blocks as part of the student's educational program - school districts are permitted to amend reports for those students whose programs span the entire year, including second semester.
- Processes for making amendments will be outlined in detailed procedures to follow and these changes will be reflected in subsequent recalculations of funding.

**Q8. Districts can now be funded at greater than one FTE for students attending more than one school, in the same district. Do BCeSIS and the 1701 data collection process allow this?**

- Yes. Both the BCeSIS and 1701 data collection processes allow for additional funding for students attending more than one school in the same district.

**Q.9 Graduation Transitions Program students are put into the TRAX system, but not in the 1701 data collection. Will the Ministry permit school districts to re-submit to correct this?**

- Yes. Districts can resubmit reports if required. Important to note that districts can only claim a student once for this program during grades 10-12.

**Q.10 Is the Supplement for Unique Geographic Factors affected by the 0.5 FTE base correction?**

- No. The Supplement for Unique Geographic Factors is based on 2006/07 Final FTE amounts. Therefore, the 0.5 FTE base correction does not affect this supplement.

**Q.11 Is the Unique Student Needs Supplement affected by the 0.5 FTE base correction?**

- No. Special Needs, ESL/FSL and Aboriginal Education are funded as 1 headcount, which equals 1 FTE regardless of the number of courses in which these students are enrolled.
- Unique Student Needs supplemental funding will not be affected by the 0.5 FTE base correction.

**Q.12 Is the Labour Settlement Supplemental Funding affected by the 0.5 FTE base correction?**

- No. Labour Settlement funding is not affected by the 0.5 FTE base correction. The Labour Settlement funding is based on current year total salaries for teachers, support staff, excluded staff and other professionals, as well as the estimated cost of some items, such as salary grid harmonisation and additional teacher on call costs.

- Enrolment is not used in this calculation and, therefore, the 0.5 FTE base correction has no effect.

**Q.13 What effect does the 0.5 FTE base correction have on the Nominal Roll calculation of FTE?**

- It has no effect. The \$4.345 billion for operating grants in the 2007/08 school year will not change therefore the overall provincial INAC block rate will not change. Individual districts will only see a change to their INAC block as a result of enrolment and composition changes.

**Q.14 Some school districts may have automatically reported eight courses for every student. Will the Ministry verify the accuracy of this reporting?**

- Yes. All school districts are expected to report based upon the 1701 Instructions.
- The Ministry has a compliance audit program that provides assurance that funds are distributed equitably, based on compliance with policy and legislation.
- School districts may amend reports for students reported in a manner inconsistent with 1701 Instructions.