



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

Suite 202, 1545 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 1T5
Tel: 604-687-4433 Fax: 604-687-4488 Email: info@bccpac.bc.ca

BCCPAC Member Alert
December 9, 2005

BC Government Allocates \$56 Million to Schools and Districts to Improve Student Learning

As a direct result of the teachers' job action in October, 2005, the BC Government saved \$126 million dollars. Minister of Education Shirley Bond announced today that \$56 million of those funds will be allocated to public schools and school districts, with half going directly into schools and the other half going to districts. All funds must be used to improve student learning, and the money must be spent by March 31, 2006.

Schools will receive one-time funding in the amount of \$50 per student. The decision on how to spend these funds must be made by the school in consultation with the School Planning Council, the broader parent community, and school staff. The school's plan must be signed by a parent representative, the principal, and a staff representative, and then be sent to the school district for approval.

School districts will also receive one-time funding in the amount of \$50 per student. The decision on how to spend these funds must be made by the district in partnership with the broader parent community and district staff. The priority for district funding is for textbooks and learning resources. The district plan must be approved by all education partners.

All school and district plans must meet the following requirements:

- Demonstrate how the funds will help improve student achievement in the school or district and describe how the district will monitor improvement.
- Describe the type of expenditures, such as: textbooks, learning resources, lab equipment, computers, school libraries, special education assessments, new programs, and staff
- **Guarantee that the funding will be spent by March 31, 2006.** Funds not spent by then will revert to the Ministry of Education

All school districts must submit their school and district spending plans to the Ministry of Education by **no later than January 10, 2006**. This means that all schools must complete and submit their plans to their school district well before that date. Each school district will determine a date by which the schools in their district must complete this process.

BCCPAC strongly believes that the money saved as a result of the job action should go directly into classrooms, schools, and districts to support student learning. Some of the money has already been allocated:

- \$2 million to 34 school districts that submitted proposals for extra instructional time to cover lost schools days.
- \$8 million for provincial education initiatives including rural schools and healthy schools.
- \$20 million to address class size and composition as agreed to by the Ministry of Education and BC Teachers' Federation on December 7, 2005.
- \$40 million for the BCTF's Long Term Disability Trust as recommended in the report of Industrial Inquiry Commissioner Vince Ready.

At the December 5, 2005, meeting of the Learning Roundtable, participants agreed to allocate the remaining cost savings to student learning in the classroom, schools, and districts.

BCCPAC recognizes that the short timeline imposed to complete the school spending plan for these funds could be difficult. We nevertheless encourage parents to take part in this important decision-making opportunity.

For more information, click on these links:

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Ministry of Education's Press Release, December 9, 2005](#)