

E-Alert

Friday, October 19, 2007

BREAKING EDUCATION NEWS FOR BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Issue**Changes to Funding Formula****Distribute to****Trustees, Superintendents, Secretary-Treasurers, Executive Assistants
Assistants****BCSTA contact****Stephen Hansen, Associate Executive Director**

Changes to Funding Formula for 2007/2008 Operating Grants

On October 18th the Ministry of Education sent a letter to all Secretary Treasurers announcing a change to the funding formula, which may have a significant impact on some board budgets.

The change is being made to the formula for calculating FTEs for students in grades 10, 11, 12 and ungraded secondary students. In the past, funding for these students was calculated by assigning each student a base amount of .5 of an FTE. Then an additional .125 of an FTE was added for each course the student took, up to a maximum of 1 FTE.

The changed formula does away with the .5 base funding, which means that students in these grades will only be funded at a rate of .125 FTE per course. The new formula does not make a difference to the funding for full time students who take 8 courses at their school ($8 \times .125 = 1$ FTE). However, boards will now get less funding for students taking less than a full course load, potentially creating budget shortfalls for this fiscal year.

BCSTA is in discussions with the Ministry on this issue and will keep members apprised as more information is available. Your Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer will be able to provide information about the potential impact for your district.