



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

## S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

October 14th, 2016

Honourable Michael De Jong  
Minister of Finance and Government House Leader  
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Honourable Mike Bernier  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Ministers De Jong and Bernier:

RE: SD5 Needs Budget for 2016/17

Please find attached the School District 5 (SD5) Southeast Kootenay Needs Budget for 2016/17. As per Board policy, this budget is sent to your Ministry each year following our legislated, balanced budget.

As you will note, our District is once again short of the funding necessary to provide adequate education to ALL students – this year by over \$6.5 million. We would also like to point out that over \$800,000 of that shortfall represents monies needed – but not provided - to deliver the necessary supports to our Special Needs students.

We would like to remind government that the NEED for increased spending to education is an Ongoing Theme of the Select Standing Committee on Government Finances and Services (SSCGFS) recommendations *each year*. Most recently, in their 2016 report the Committee clearly indicated that education constituted a *significant portion* of the public's budget input and that *no other area of expense exceeded K-12 education as a public spending priority*.

Despite these bipartisan findings, K-12 education continues to be significantly underfunded and the SSCFGS recommendations unheeded while Boards scramble to fund yearly inflationary costs like Hydro and MSP, the new MyEdBC

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program, the training and resources required to implement the renewed curriculum, PVP/exempt staff compensation etc., over and above basic funding categories.

And, while our Board acknowledges that government has provided limited funding envelopes to address *some* capital concerns such as transportation and minor building upgrades, this funding does not address Boards' ongoing need for **stable, predictable and adequate funding**.

Our Board cannot understand why, despite BC's AAA credit rating and one of the lowest debts among provinces, the BC government continues to choose to pay down debt faster than scheduled in last year's budget rather than invest that money in such an essential service as education.

Nor can we understand why, given the funding challenges faced by all 60 Boards of Education across the province, government is still focused on a \$100 million "Prosperity Fund" whose "lead priority" is debt retirement.

Most difficult to understand however, is why government continues to choose investment in private over public education year over year as illustrated by the 61.7% funding increase independent schools have received since 2005, in comparison to the paltry 19.7% increase provided to public education during that same period.

**Once again, our Board urges your government to listen to the taxpayers of British Columbia –as per the findings of multiple SSCFGS reports — and make a real and significant investment in public education.**

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, Board Chair,  
SD5

\*Cc: Christy Clark, Premier  
Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East BC  
John Horgan, Leader, BC New Democratic Party  
Rob Fleming, Education Critic, BC New Democratic Party  
Wm. Scott Hamilton, Chair, Select Standing Committee on Finances and  
Government Services  
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Teresa Rezasnoff, President, BCSTA  
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education  
Mike Lombardi, Chair, Vancouver School Board  
Glen Hansman, President BC Teachers' Federation  
John Bird, President, BCCPAC  
Shelley Balfour & Christina Smith, CFTA Co-Chairs  
Debbie Therrien, DPAC Chair  
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association  
Charley Beresford, Columbia Institute  
Catherine Shaw, FACE BC Vancouver  
Media

\*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

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940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook BC, V1C 4C6 • Tel: 250.417.2055 • Fax: 250.489.5460 • [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca)

## SD5 Needs for Budget 2016/17

### Select Standing committee recommendation

<u>Description</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Teacher Librarians Elem	7.6	775,200
Teacher Librarians Sec	3.2	326,400
Resource Center - Teacher	0.5	51,000
Secondary offerings - Teachers	4.0	408,000
Fine Arts and Band - Teachers	3.0	306,000
Learning thru the Arts - Teacher	1.0	102,000
Science Helping - Teachers	2.0	204,000
District Psychologist	1.0	102,000
ELL teacher coordinator	1.0	102,000
Speech language pathologists	2.0	204,000
Counsellors - Teachers	2.0	204,000
Physical Literacy	2.0	204,000
Steeple .4 Vice Principal	0.4	40,800
Reduce Class size - Teachers	17.0	1,734,000
Administration time - Teachers	3.0	306,000
Early Years Coordinator	1.0	102,000
Coding support - Hardware/software		30,000
Shops Equipment		100,000
Training for Specialist		10,000
IEP meeting improvement		30,000
EA support for K - Sept		66,000
MyEd training		40,000
Operations - Mgmt	1.0	94,000
Education Assistants	3.0	120,000
Elem School Supplies		30,000
PVP/Exempt compensation		200,000
Local capital program		250,000
Technology		100,000
MYEd Technologist		75,000
New Curriculum Implementation		30,000
IT Technician		66,000
PVP Mentoring		10,000
School Professional Learning rounds		40,000
School Transition Meetings		10,000
PARTY program		10,000
District Science Fair		5,000
Violent Threat Risk Assessment		30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,517,400</b>

**Southeast Kootenay School District 5 Education Advocacy on Student Services  
for the Select Standing Committee (October 2016)**

**Overview of our District's Student Services staffing for 2016-17**

- Student Services Teacher = 25.2 FTE (up from 23.9)
- Education Assistants = 75 elementary (down two); 43 secondary (down 3)
- Student Services Coordinators = 1.9 FTE
- School Psychologist = 0.9 FTE
- Vision Resource Teacher = 1 FTE
- Hearing Resource Teacher = 1 FTE
- Speech Language Pathologists = 5 FTE
- Youth Care Workers = 11

**And funding for 2016-17**

- Generated funding generated from Level 1, 2, 3 = \$7.67 million for school level services
  - 10 students who are physical dependent (up one)
  - 101 students who have moderate to profound intellectual disabilities, chronic health or physical disabilities, visual or hearing impairments (down ten)
  - 113 students on the autism spectrum (up seven)
  - 156 students who require intensive supports for mental illness or externalized behavior (down 13)
- Basic Allocation from District = \$1.73 million for school level services
  - Additional 373 students on an Individual Education Plan
- Community LINK funding = \$373,000
- Additional \$1 million in Education Fund and Support Learning Improvement Fund

There are additional funds that support School Counsellors and Aboriginal Education Support Workers.

There are many additional program supports in place including the Breakfast and Lunch programs, Friends program, Mind-Up Program, positive mental wellness plans, meetings with parents, school community and outside agencies for kids needing more intensive supports.