

**Date:** February 1, 2019

**Title:** New Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan Submission Requirements

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As communicated in the Week of January 14, 2019 DM Bulletin, transportation is a key commitment in the new *BC Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success* (BCTEA) to ensure that First Nation Students living on-reserve get to and from BC Public Schools. As part of this commitment Boards of Education (Boards) and First Nations are required to develop a Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan (Joint Plans) to address students' transportation needs.

The Parties to BCTEA have been working since December 2018 to finalize a template Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan and related instructions. The Parties' work has involved establishing guiding principles, criteria and expectations to guide Boards and First Nations in developing their Joint Plans and to support the BCTEA Parties in evaluating the merits of these Plans. Submission requirements have been finalized and relevant documents are listed below:

1. [Guiding Principles for Developing Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans \(Guiding Principles\)](#);
2. [Submission Requirements](#); and
3. [Transportation Service Worksheet](#).

Boards and First Nations were encouraged several times over the fall of 2018 and winter 2019 to work together to determine First Nation Student transportation needs and to begin the collaborative process to develop a Joint Plan. The BCTEA Parties recognize that some Boards and First Nations may have developed a Joint Plan through this early collaborative process. If the Joint Plan contains the same information outlined in the Submission Requirements and Transportation Service Worksheets, and aligns with the Guiding Principles, please submit it in the current state. If not, please use the Transportation Service Worksheet to complete development of a Joint Plan for submission. Note that the Transportation Service Worksheet is preferred for consistency and expedient review. **Signed Joint Plans are due to the Ministry by March 8, 2019.** Please send them to [educ.srsd@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.srsd@gov.bc.ca).

It is recognized that some Boards and First Nations may have existing Local Education Agreements (LEAs) that address transportation. The Boards and First Nations may agree the existing transportation arrangements meet the needs of First Nation Students and these Submission Requirements, or that the First Nation Student Transportation Plan process requires amendments to their LEA.

The Joint Plans will be reviewed by the tripartite Joint First Nation Student Transportation Committee (Joint Committee) comprised of representatives of BC, Canada and FNESC. **Decisions of the Joint Committee will be communicated to Boards and First Nations by April 12, 2019.** Joint Plans will be supported by a First Nation Student Transportation Fund comprised at the outset of existing federal funding equivalent to the Student Location Factor of the Operating Grants Manual and the provincial Student Transportation Fund. The Fund will be paid by the Government of Canada and administered by the Ministry.

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Please note that the focus is on operating costs associated with First Nation Student transportation needs and services. If transportation capital implications are identified by the Board and First Nation in their planning process, please clearly outline them in a separate document for further consideration by the Joint Committee. Further information will be forthcoming regarding transportation plans for Treaty First Nations and block-funded First Nations. The Parties encourage these groups to continue with the planning processes.

If you have any questions about the attached Submission Requirements or related materials, please contact Caroline Ponsford at [caroline.ponsford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:caroline.ponsford@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

Ministry of Education



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First Nations Education Steering Committee



Indigenous Services Canada



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