

Appendix B – Frequently Asked Questions

The following FAQs are informed by a combination of questions received from school districts and First Nations in response to the approved Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans and anticipated questions for new submissions. If you have additional questions, please contact Denise Evdokimoff, Project Director, Ministry of Education, at denise.evdokimoff@gov.bc.ca.

Approved 2019/20 Submissions

- 1. Question** – Is the funding approved in the 2019/20 submission additional funding to the existing funding available in 2018/19?
Answer – Yes, the funding approved in the Joint Transportation plans was supplemental to any existing funding or baseline that school districts were spending on transporting First Nation students. Please note that the funding is supplemental to existing student transportation funding and not meant to replace existing funding.
- 2. Question** – If operational funding was approved in the 2019/20 plan, will it be automatically made available for 2020/21? For example, if a School District implemented additional or improved bus routes in 2019/20 will the funding continue to support these new routes?
Answer – Yes, 2019/20 operational funding for to/from expenditures will continue to 2020/21. However, like all funding, the amount is subject to change in future years.
- 3. Question** – Will the school bus driver’s compensation / wages and/or other operating costs that were removed from our 2019/20 submission be reinstated when we receive our bus for the 2020/21 school year?
Answer – Yes, if costs associated with operating a bus were removed from the 2019/20 submission, the identified costs will be reinstated to correspond with the delivery of buses to those applicable School Districts.

2020/2021 Submissions

- 1. Question** – How do we update or correct our 2019/20 submission?
Answer – Please use your original submission as a base and outline corrections or updates and resubmit. Please note, additional funding is not guaranteed.
- 2. Question** – Will there be additional BCTEA funding for buses?
Answer – Requests for buses will be through the established BC Ministry of Education application-based Bus Acquisition Program. Please note that the Bus Acquisition Program is for School District assets only and are restricted to “yellow fleet” buses.