

June 2, 2021

RE: BCTEA Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans – 2020/21 and 2021/22 School Years

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the approved 2020/21 Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan (Joint Plan) reporting requirements and to outline the submission process for 2021/22 Joint Plans.

As noted in Schedule G of the *BC Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success* (BCTEA), the cost of transportation for on-reserve students attending public schools is typically funded from a number of funding allocation sources including the Student Transportation Fund, Student Location Factor (including Supplemental Student Location Factor), general operating funding, and Federal funding. School districts are expected to consider these funding sources when co-developing joint transportation plan(s) with First Nations. The Student Location Factor is used to fund various student services and supports for all students including transportation.

The Joint Plan submission documents, including templates and other information, can be accessed on both the Ministry of Education Events website (see links below) and the [FNESC](#) website. Documents include:

- BCTEA 2021-22 New Joint Plan submission requirements (instruction document)
- BCTEA 2021/22 Joint Plan Transportation Worksheet
- Extracurricular Reporting Template
- Policies and Procedures document
- Comprehensive questions and answers

Reporting for the 2020/21 School Year Joint Plans

As noted in the approval letters, there are specific reporting requirements for the transportation funding. Requirements are outlined below. Please submit completed reports to BCTEA@gov.bc.ca by **July 09, 2021**.

1. Extracurricular

Please use the Extracurricular Reporting Template from the [Ministry Events Calendar](#) to report how the extracurricular transportation funding was used this school year. Add rows to the table as required. If applicable, please attach anecdotal or qualitative evidence that demonstrates how the funding improved student access to extracurricular activities. As the approval letters explained, funds may be carried forward and used for extracurricular activities in 2021/22. If the funds are not spent by the end of the second school year (2020/21), the funding should be spent first the following school year.

2. *To / From Reporting*

If applicable, please report how the “to / from” funding allocation assisted in reducing travel times and extended services to students above and beyond previous years’ services. If there were additional benefits that were not initially anticipated, please include these benefits. This information will assist in outlining some of the benefits associated with the additional *BC Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success (BCTEA)* “to/from” funding and may be helpful for future planning.

NOTE: The above reporting requirements are in addition to the Ministry of Education’s regular financial reporting related to special grants that are due at the Ministry by September 30, 2021 along with the financial statements.

2021/22 School Year Joint Plans

2021/22 Joint Plan Submission Package and Process

All reference documents, including the Joint Plan Transportation Worksheet, can be found in the [Ministry Events Calendar](#).

The deadline for submissions is **August 13, 2021**, however, if they are available earlier, please submit earlier. When completed please submit Joint Plans, signed by First Nations and school districts, to BCTEA@gov.bc.ca. Please refer to the categories below to determine what type of submission is required:

- **No Funding Required**

If, after consultation and agreement with respective First Nations, the 2020/21 Joint Plan **is** meeting the needs of the First Nation, and no funding for the 2021/22 school year is required (i.e., there is carry-over funding), email a letter indicating agreement that no funding for the 2021/22 school year is required to BCTEA@gov.bc.ca. The email must include signatures of the Chief of the First Nation (or delegate) and Board Chair.

- **Status Quo**

If, after consultation and agreement with respective First Nations, the joint plan submitted in 2020/21 is meeting the needs of the First Nation, please resubmit your plan using the BCTEA 2021/22 Joint Plan Transportation Worksheet. Please note, any carry-over funding from 2020/21 will automatically be deducted from the 2021/22 funding.

- **Revisions to 2020/21 Joint Plans**

If, after consultation and agreement with respective First Nations that the 2020/21 Joint Plan **is not** meeting the needs of the First Nation and revisions to services and funding are required for 2021/22, please resubmit your plan using the BCTEA 2021/22 Joint Plan Transportation Worksheet clearly noting the changes/updates.

- **New Joint Plans**

For school districts / First Nations that did not submit Joint Plans for previous years (i.e., this is your first submission), please follow the instructions in the BCTEA 2021-22 NEW Joint Plan Submission Requirements document, complete and submit BCTEA 2021/22 Joint Plan Transportation Worksheet.

A thorough assessment of all revised and new Joint Plan submissions will be conducted by the Joint First Nation Student Transportation Committee (Joint Committee) to determine the approved funding for each submission. It is anticipated that funding approval letters will be sent to School Districts / First Nations by early November 2021.

As in previous years, funding for 2021/22 submissions is limited. Funding for new submissions or revisions is not guaranteed to bridge the gap between planned service improvements (those approved by the Joint Committee) and existing service levels in place. School districts should plan to maintain existing service levels and billing arrangements for transportation services that were in place in previous school years.

After the third year of reporting (e.g. post 2021/22 school year), the parties to BCTEA (BC, Canada, First Nations Education Steering Committee) will assess whether the strategy has effectively addressed and resolved transportation issues for First Nation students attending BC public schools and, where necessary, identify and implement improvements and/or further options.

Sincerely,

Ministry of Education
First Nations Education Steering Committee
Indigenous Services Canada