

March 9, 2022

RE: BCTEA Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans – 2021/22 and 2022/23 School Years

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the approved 2021/22 Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan (Joint Plan) reporting requirements and to outline the submission process for 2022/23 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 Provincial Student Transportation Fund (STF), Student Location Factor (SLF), Supplemental Student Location Factor (SSLF), general operating funding, and Federal funding.

School districts are expected to consider these funding sources when co-developing Joint Plans with First Nations e.g., 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 website (see links below) and the [FNESC](#) website. Documents include:

2021/22 Reporting documents:

- 2021/22 BCTEA Transportation Reporting Template which includes the following Tabs:
 - Revenue - Spending Report *new* (includes pre-populated funding sources that will be helpful for creating your Joint Transportation Plan(s))
 - Funding Assumptions
 - Extracurricular Report

2022/23 Joint Plan submission documents:

- BCTEA 2022/23 Joint Plan Transportation Worksheet
- First Nations Student Transportation Fund Planning, Policy and Procedures Guide: 2022/23 School Year
- Comprehensive questions and answers

Reporting for the 2021/22 School Year Joint Plans – due May 20, 2022

As noted in the 2021/22 Transportation Funding Approval letters, there are specific reporting requirements for the transportation funding included in the 2021/22 BCTEA Transportation Reporting Template (Reporting Template). The Reporting Template can be found on the [Ministry Events Calendar](#) and on [FNESC's website](#). Requirements are outlined below. Please submit completed reports along with the 2022/23 Joint Plans to BCTEA@gov.bc.ca by **May 20, 2022**.

1. Extracurricular Reporting Form

Reporting requirements regarding student participation in extracurricular activities and the use of funding for transportation to extracurricular activities and sports this year align with the requirements in 2020/21. The information may be entered in the Extracurricular Reporting form that is part of the Reporting Template – Extracurricular Report Tab. 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 not spent in 2021/22 may be carried forward and used for transportation to extracurricular activities in 2022/23.

2. Transportation Revenue and Spending Reporting Form *new*

After three years of implementation, BCTEA partners are collecting financial information including revenue, spending and a description of transportation services to review the effectiveness of the strategy outlined in BCTEA Schedule G, to help identify and implement any necessary improvements and/or further options.

The new template highlights available funding for transportation and will demonstrate to First Nations that school districts are using all available funding sources to transport First Nation Students living on reserve to public schools.

Under BCTEA, a portion of the First Nation Student Rate (FNSR) that is derived from the STF, SLF, and SSLF is considered to be a proxy for funding for transportation. As such, this amount is the minimum of the FNSR that should be applied to the transportation of First Nations Students living on reserve. This amount can be supplemented by other funding from the FNSR along with provincial operating funding and special grants like the provincial Student Transportation Fund. As per BCTEA Schedule G, this amount was meant to be removed from the First Nation Student Rate and it has not been removed i.e., funding exists in both the Provincial Operating Grant (SLF, SSLF, STF) as well as in the FNSR.

2022/23 School Year Joint Plans – due May 20, 2022

2022/23 Joint Plan Submission Package and Process

All reference documents, including the Joint Plan Transportation Worksheet, can be found in the [Ministry Events Calendar](#) and on [FNESC's website](#).

The deadline for submissions is **May 20, 2022**, however, early submissions are welcome. When completed boards may 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:

- **Status Quo**

If, after consultation and agreement with respective First Nations, the Joint Plan submitted in 2021/22 is meeting the needs of the First Nation, use the BCTEA 2022/23 Joint Transportation Plan Worksheet and resubmit your Joint Plan . Please note, any carry-over funding from 2021/22 will automatically be deducted from the 2022/23 funding.

- **Revisions to 2021/22 Joint Plans**

If, after consultation and agreement with respective First Nations, the 2021/22 Joint Plan **is not** meeting the needs of the First Nation and revisions to services and funding are required for 2022/23, use the BCTEA 2022/23 Joint Transportation Plan Worksheet to clearly note the changes/updates.

- **New Joint Plans**

For school districts and First Nations that did not submit Joint Plans for previous years (i.e., this is your first submission), please complete and submit the BCTEA 2022/23 Joint Transportation Plan Worksheet. Districts and First Nations may refer to the Instructions tab in the document for more details on how to fill out the template.

New this year in the BCTEA 2022/23 Joint Plan Transportation Worksheet is a request to provide values for funding sources. Similar to the new Report Template, including these funding sources values will demonstrate to First Nations that school districts are using all available funding sources to transport First Nation Students living on reserve, to public schools. BCTEA Joint Plan transportation funding is intended to be supplemental to already available funding sources and to meet the additional services that have been identified by First Nations through co-development of the Joint Plan.

A thorough assessment of all revised and new Joint Plan submissions will be conducted by the BCTEA Joint 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 and First Nations by September 2022.

As in previous years, funding for 2022/23 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.

If you have any questions, please submit to BCTEA@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Ministry of Education
First Nations Education Steering Committee
Indigenous Services Canada