



Annual Meeting on Transportation to Public Schools

BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA):
Supporting First Nation Student Success

February 7, 2023 - 10:00 am -12:00 pm



Recognition of the Territory

Meeting Overview



1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Meeting Procedures and Resources
3. Context: BCTEA and Schedule G Transportation
4. Transportation Guiding Principles
5. 2023/24 Joint Transportation Plans
6. Policy Updates
7. 2022/23 Reporting
8. Independent Research
9. Questions and Closing Remarks

Meeting Procedures and Resources



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- Each participant received a Zoom participant guide and meeting material.
- Please display your full name and First Nation or school district number while participating in the meeting.
- Your microphone will be muted automatically to minimize background noise.
- We encourage questions at the end of each section of the presentation via the “Chat” function or, if you wish to ask your question verbally during the Q&A period, please use the “Raise Hand” function under Reactions and, if possible, turn on your camera (refer to the Zoom Participant Guide for more details).

Context



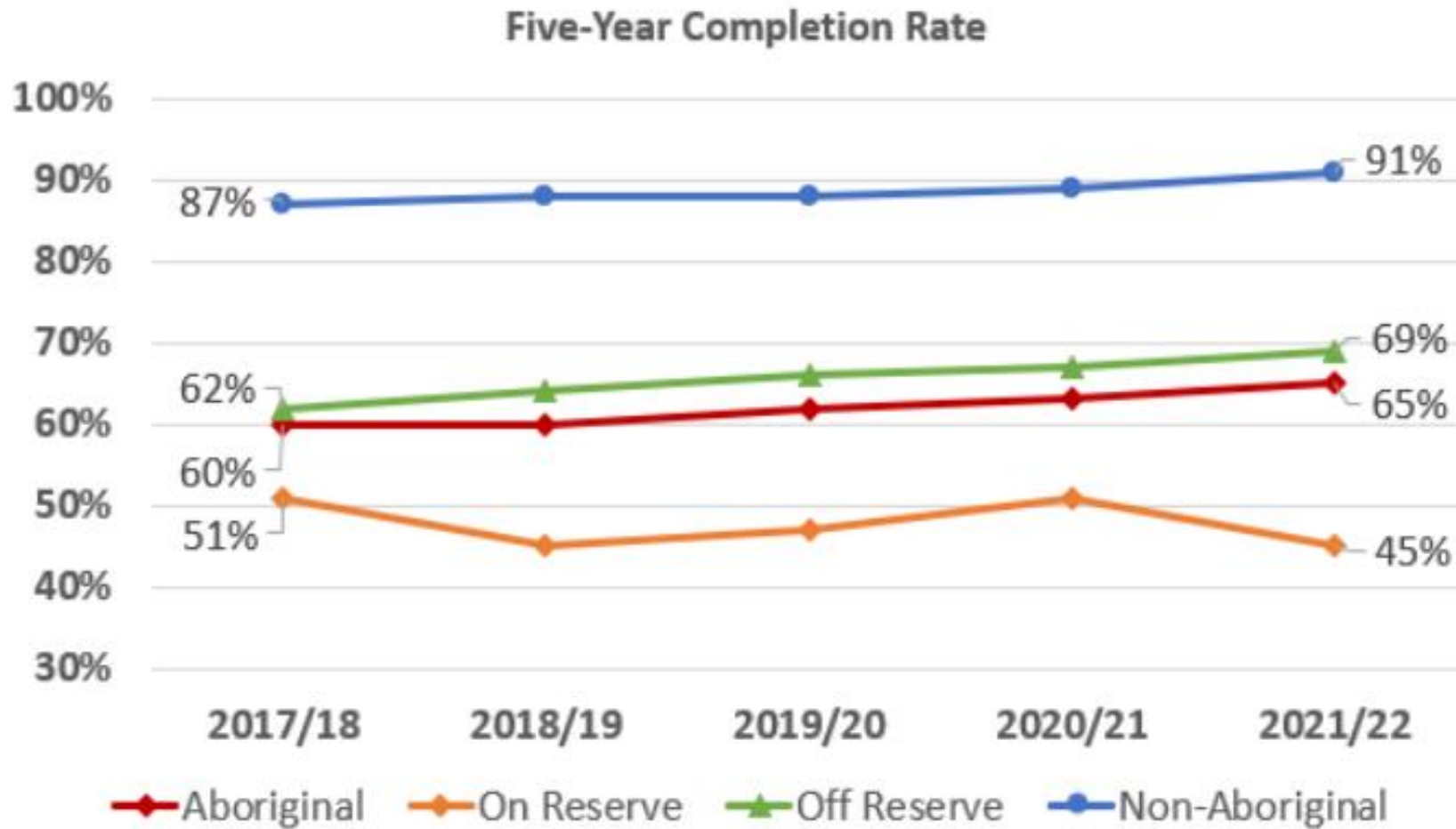
- Approximately 7,991 First Nation students living on reserve who attend BC public schools have often faced inadequate transportation services.
- This can impede their participation in the public education system and contribute to lower achievement outcomes.
- Given the 45% 5-year completion rate for on-reserve students in BC public schools, our collaborative efforts through BCTEA continue to be critical to support First Nation Students, including meeting their transportation needs.

Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) Grade 7: Numeracy

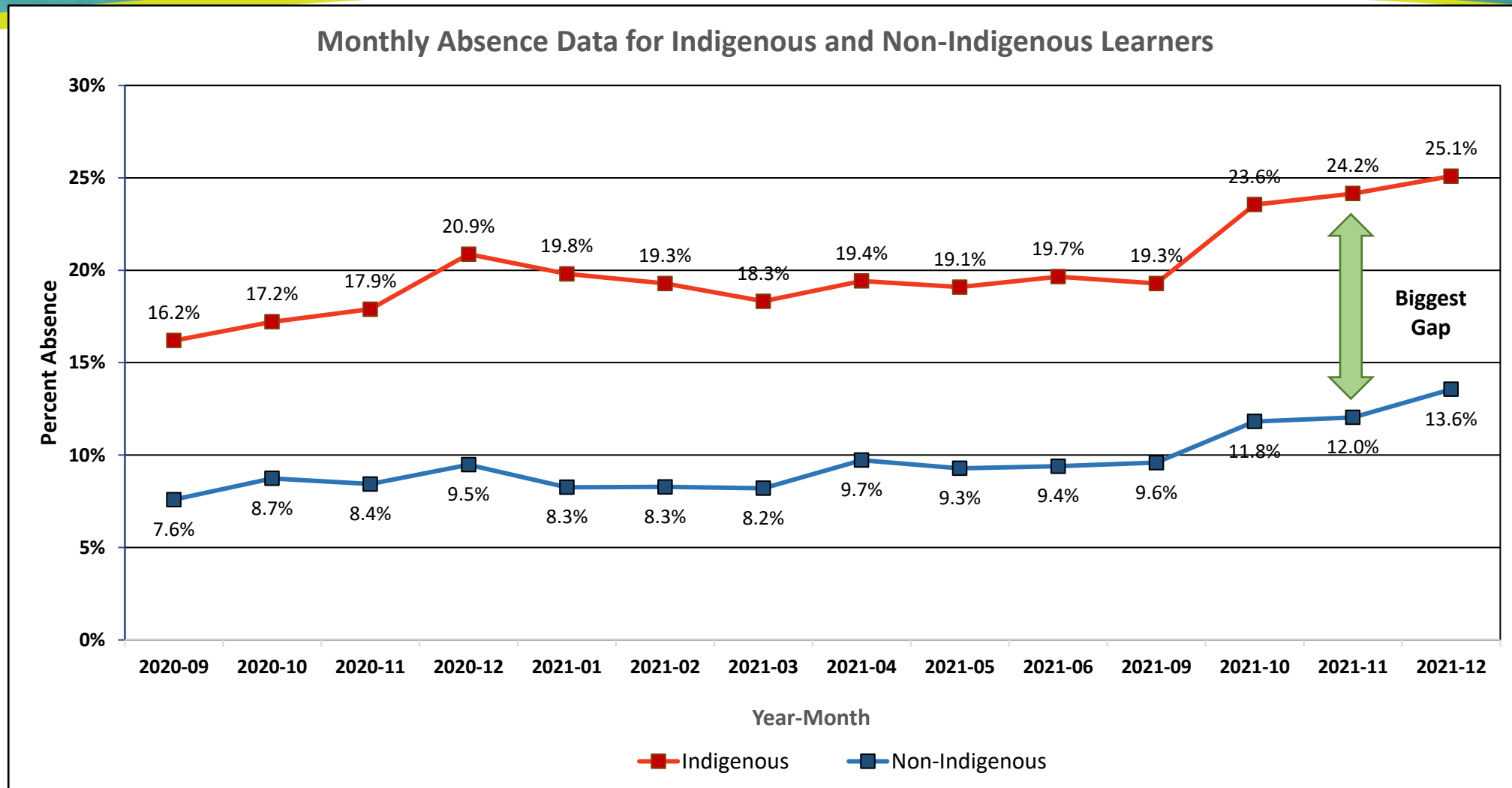


Numeracy Grade 7				
School Year	Status On-reserve		Non-Aboriginal	
	% of Students On Track or Extending	% Not Participating	% of Students On Track or Extending	% Not Participating
2017/18	22	26	68	26
2018/19	27	29	70	29
2019/20	26	23	67	28
2020/21	30	46	71	39
2021/22	23	30	65	32

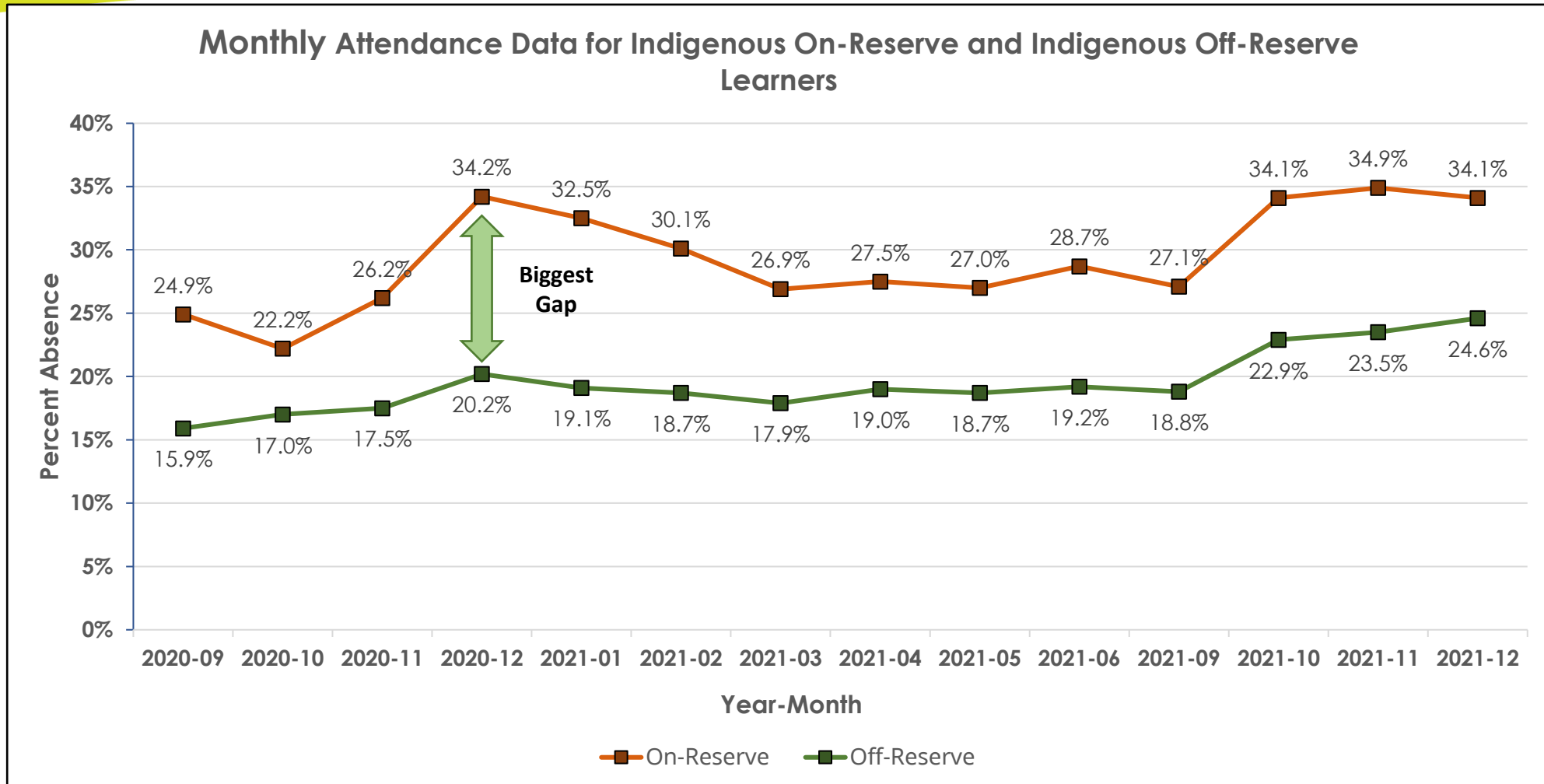
Five-Year Completion Rate (Dogwood and Adult Dogwood)



Attendance Data in Public Schools



Attendance Data in Public Schools



BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) Schedule G - Transportation



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- BCTEA, a five-year agreement that replaces the previous Tripartite Education Framework Agreement (TEFA, 2012-2018) was given a two-year extension to 2025 supported by the FNEESC Board, the FNSA Board, the First Nations Leadership Council, Indigenous Services Canada and the Ministry of Education and Child Care.
- In Schedule G, the BCTEA Parties committed to developing and implementing effective measures to address existing and future issues arising from the transportation of First Nation students [living on reserve] to BC public schools.
- The Parties established a **First Nation Student Transportation Fund** that BC would receive from Canada and allocate to school districts by way of special purpose grant pursuant to Section 115 of the *School Act*.

BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) Schedule G – Transportation, cont'd



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- A tripartite First Nation Student Transportation Committee was established to assess the Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans (“Joint Plans”), develop policies and procedures for the administration of the Fund, and review the overall effectiveness of the strategy and of its implementation.
- Boards of education and First Nations have been asked to establish and maintain a collaborative process to develop Joint Plans, informed by guiding principles and criteria established by the BCTEA Parties.

Guiding Principles for Developing Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans



1. The Board of Education and First Nation will identify transportation needs respecting parental choice.
2. Safety is paramount.
3. Transportation for extracurricular activities and sports.
4. No walk limits.
5. The shortest ride possible.
6. No highway pickups or drop-offs.
7. Communications protocols.
8. Professional development.
9. Criminal record checks.
10. Timely notice on any changes to the joint plan.

Source: <http://www.fnesc.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Guiding-Principles-for-Transportation.pdf>

BCTEA First Nation Student Transportation Fund



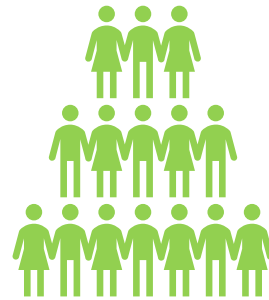
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Every year approximately 150+ Joint Plans co-developed & reviewed



13 Province funded yellow buses



Over 4,600 First Nation Students included in a BCTEA Joint Plan



Students transported approximately 15,000 kms to school



Of the 169 Joint Plans received: 2 new Joint Plans and 15 new services funded



2019/20



2022/23



Questions?

2023/2024 Joint Plan Categories



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Boards of education and First Nations will be asked to co-develop and submit Joint Transportation Plans for the 2023-2024 school year by **May 24, 2023**.

Joint Plans may be submitted under one of the following three categories:

1. **Status Quo:** If the Joint Plan submitted in 2022/2023 is determined to meet the needs of the First Nation, resubmit details using a 2023/24 Joint Plan Worksheet.
2. **Revision to Previous Joint Plan:** If the plan submitted in 2022/2023 is **not meeting the needs** of the First Nation and needs revision, the school district will then complete the BCTEA 2023/2024 Joint Plan Worksheet and describe in detail First Nation Students' present transportation needs.
3. **New Joint Plan:** For school districts or First Nations that did not submit Joint Plans for previous years (i.e., this is your first submission), complete and submit the BCTEA 2023/2024 Joint Plan Worksheet.

Regardless of the category, discussion and agreement with respective First Nations is required.

2023/2024 Joint Plan Template (Worksheet)



STEP 1 - Continued				Transportation Services					
First Nation (not student name)	School Attending		Estimated student travel distance to school (KMs) one way	Number of First Nation Students residing on reserve, attending public school receiving / proposed to receive transportation	Transportation Service Category e.g., Bus, Ferry, Water Taxi, Bus Pass, Walking	STEP 2 – Base Level of service (prior to accessing BCTEA funding)		STEP 4 - Proposed enhanced Transportation Services	
	School Name	Location				Description of Transportation Services provided by and funded by the Board and/or First Nation to transport First Nation Students prior to submitting the first Joint Plan and accessing the First Nation Student Transportation Fund. Additional transportation services funded by the district and implemented since the initial Joint Plan may be included here.	STEP 3 - Cost of Base Service	Description of proposed enhanced Transportation Services identified by First Nation and school district.	STEP 5 - Cost of Proposed Service for BCTEA Funding*

Base Level Service versus Proposed Enhanced Services:

Step 2: Description of Transportation Services provided by and funded by the Board and/or First Nation to transport First Nation Students prior to submitting the first Joint Plan and accessing the First Nation Student Transportation Fund.

Step 4: “Proposed enhanced transportation services” are the enhanced transportation services for which BCTEA Transportation funding is requested.

2023/2024 Joint Plan Template (Worksheet) – The “Proxy”



- There is a portion of the First Nation Student Rate (FNSR) derived from the Student Location Factor (SLF), Supplementary Student Location Factor (SSLF) and Provincial Student Transportation Fund (STF) that is considered a “proxy” for funding First Nation Student transportation.
- This amount is the minimum of the FNSR that should be applied to the transportation of First Nations Students living on reserve. This proxy amount can be supplemented by other funding from the FNSR and/or from provincial operating funding and special grants.
- As per BCTEA Schedule G, this amount was meant to be removed from the FNSR when the BCTEA Student Transportation Fund was established, but the FNSR has not been impacted as the Proxy has not been removed.

2023/2024 Joint Plans – Parental (Transportation) Assistance



Parental (Transportation) Assistance

- It is expected that Students on reserve will be bused to school.
- Parental transportation assistance may be considered only under extraordinary/unique situations on a case-by-case basis where no other forms of transportation are possible.
- Previous approvals for parental transportation assistance support are subject to review and may not be approved in future Joint Plans.

Extracurricular Activities and Sports in 2023/2024



- Extracurricular participation is critical to develop a sense of belonging and to enhance overall student engagement in school.
- Transportation funding to enhance First Nations Students' participation in extracurricular activities and sports for the 2023/2024 school year will continue to be handled separately from the Joint Plan process.
- Funding (estimated \$1 million) is allocated by district on a per capita basis with annual reporting requirements; however, it should be spent to support students who participate in school-based extracurricular activities.
- Boards are required to administer these funds in order to collect data and report as per the Reporting 2022-23 Revenue and Spending Report template.



Policy Update 2023/24: Transportation to Extracurricular Activity

- Extracurricular activities improve student engagement and benefit students' well-being including their social, cultural, and physical health.
- The previous years' approach that included a broader scope of transportation to community based extracurricular activities will now re-focus back to **school-organized extracurricular activities** to continue to build a sense of community and belonging around the school.
- Examples of eligible services under this category will include:
 - School organized extracurricular activities like athletics, homework and music clubs and cultural activities.
 - School activities may be located off school property e.g., a different school gym or soccer field and/or be delivered by a private organization for cases where the school district works with an organization to deliver extracurricular activities.



Policy Update 2023/24: Funding Carry Over including Extracurricular

- There is currently \$1.6M in transportation to extracurricular carry over.
- The significant carryover amounts in some areas of the province in addition to the reported student numbers have raised concerns that not enough students are being encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Funds issued in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 for all categories including “Extracurricular Transportation” that have not been spent by the end of the 2022/23 school year **may be subject to recovery.**



Next Steps

- BCTEA Parties have been reviewing school district 2021/22 extracurricular carry over and will be:
 - reaching out to gather information and identify potential barriers faced by school districts and First Nations, and
 - supporting them in the planning of the use of their carried-over funds by June 2023.
- If needed, funds issued in 2022/23 may be carried forward for use in the 2023/24 school year.
- BCTEA Parties will be collecting, developing and updating a comprehensive Questions & Answers document to better support discussions between First Nations and school districts.



Questions?

Transportation Funding Sources



There are several government funding sources allocated to school districts that can be used to cover the cost of education, including transportation costs.

- Provincial general operating grant funding.
- Funding included in the First Nation Student Rate through the Student Location Factor (SLF), Supplemental Student Location Factor (SSLF) and Student Transportation Fund (STF) is the Proxy for Transportation funding.
- Provincial Student Transportation Fund (\$15.4M).
- Funding from BCTEA First Nation Student Transportation Fund by Canada allocated through the approval of Joint Plans (\$3.8M).

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.

Transportation Funding Sources, cont'd



- Once a student is enrolled in a public school the school district is responsible for the provision of supports and services to the student, including transportation needs; as such, the effective and efficient transportation of First Nation Students living on-reserve to their BC public school is expected.
- Our collective work is to support successful educational outcomes for all First Nation Students enrolled in BC public schools.
- This includes going above and beyond funding mechanisms to move us toward the required systemic change.

Capital Funding for Buses & Bus Shelters



Funding for Bus Acquisition

- Requests for buses are processed through the established Ministry application-based [Bus Acquisition Program](#). This Program is for school district assets only and is restricted to “yellow fleet” buses.

Funding for Bus Shelters

- Funding for bus shelters was made available in 2019 and 2021.
- The BCTEA Transportation Fund currently does not provide funding for shelters.
- Funding options could include school district Local Capital; the Annual Facility Grant (AFG) and/or the use of other operating funds.

Transportation Research Project: Goals and Objectives



Are Joint Plans resulting in service improvements for First Nation students attending public school?

Are the Guiding Principles being used to inform joint plans?

Is the overall strategy and joint planning process effective in improving transportation for First Nation students?

Does the reporting and joint planning provide reasonable estimates of cost and funding for transportation provided to First Nation students?

Has approved funding from the First Nation Student Transportation fund provided cost-effective transportation services for First Nation students?

Further to an assessment of joint planning and reporting, is additional research required?

Transportation Research Workplan



Stage 1 – Review and preliminary analysis of Joint Transportation Plans and Revenue and Spending Reports to determine effectiveness in improving transportation services to First Nation students attending public school

Stage 2 - Review and evaluation of the overall strategy and assessment of the effectiveness of the joint planning and reporting processes to determine effectiveness and identify any improvements

Stage 3 – Informed by the assessment of the joint plans, and joint planning and reporting process, further research may be required for a deeper understanding of transportation to and from school, extracurricular activities and transportation in areas where First Nation students are required to cross bodies of water .

Transportation Research: Stage 1 - Deliverables



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Preliminary analysis and evaluation of joint transportation and reports

Summary analysis of funding and financial information provided in Revenue and Spending reports

Summary and analysis of service enhancements/improvements funded under the First Nation Student Transportation fund

Identify subset of school districts/First Nations for further analysis of joint plans

Summary and analysis of information provided on water transportation and extra-curricular transportation

Summary of information provided on provisions in Local Education Agreements

Proposed interviews/surveys to review joint reporting and planning processes

Transportation Research: Current Activities



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Review 2021/22 Revenue and Spending reports and 2022/23 Joint Plans in selected districts

Identify subset of school districts/First Nations for detailed analysis of transportation service and related costs in 2022/23 joint plans

Complete summary analysis of base data and financial information provided in the 2021/22 Revenue and Spending reports

Summarize and analyze First Nation transportation improvements/enhancements submitted in the 2022/23 Joint Plans and approved for the First Nation Student Transportation Fund

Analyze FNST approvals and carry-overs for To/From School and Extra-curricular transportation

Transportation Research Next Steps



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Prepare summary and analysis of information submitted by school districts on water transportation services in the 2022/23 joint plans

Identify school districts/First Nations providing water transportation services to First Nation students and non-indigenous students

Prepare summary and analysis of extra-curricular participation and transportation services provided by school districts in the 2021/22 revenue and spending reports

Summarize information on Local Education Agreements submitted in 2021/22 revenue and spending reports

Develop scope of interviews/surveys (may include site visits) of FNESC, ISC, MED and school district/First Nation staff to review joint reporting and planning processes

2022/23 Revenue and Spending Report



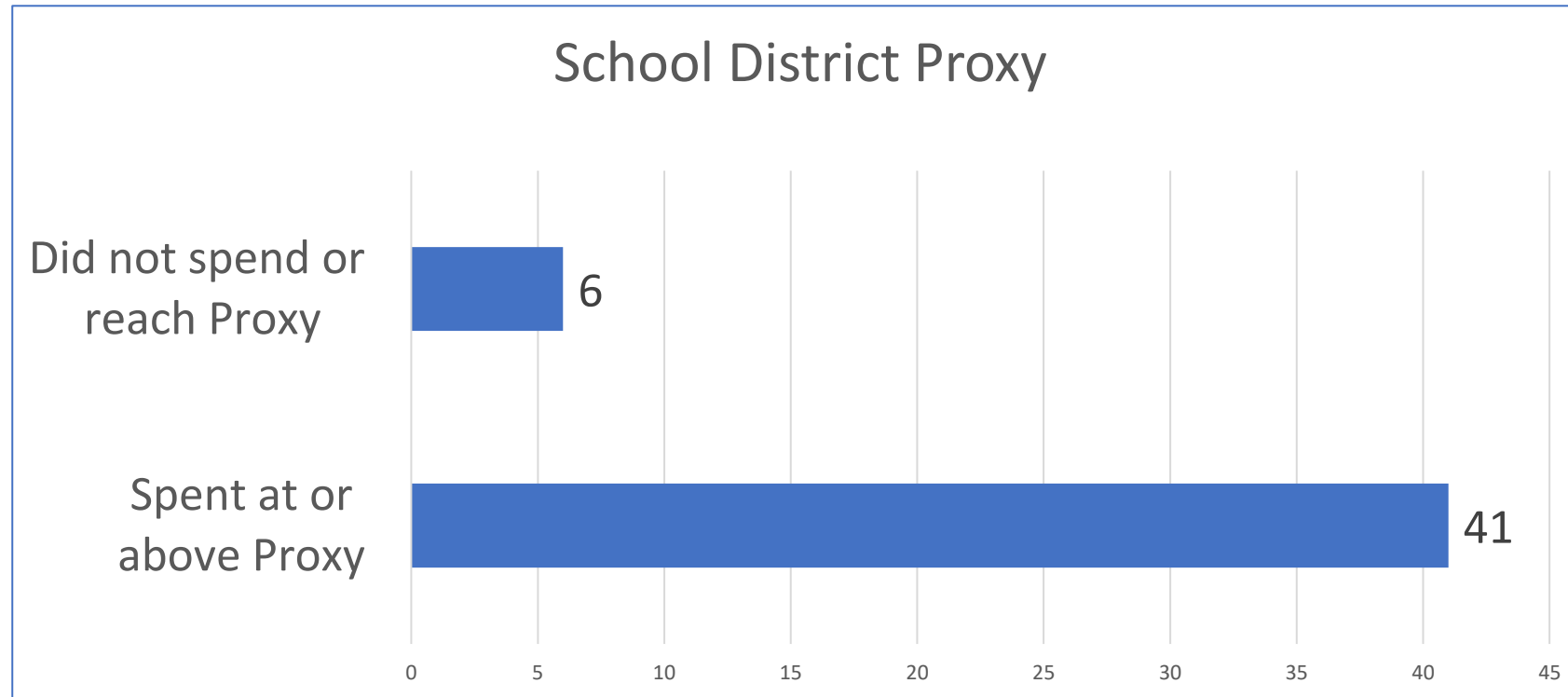
Implemented in 2021/22, the Revenue and Spending Report is intended to help First Nations and BCTEA Parties understand:

- Board spending, including the transportation “Proxy” for First Nation Students living on reserve attending BC Public School,
- The use of approved BCTEA funding for to/from school and to/from extracurricular activities.
- Understand the total cost of transportation for First Nation Students living on reserve attending public school.
- Inform the BCTEA transportation research underway in 2022/23 to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy outlined in Schedule G and to assess whether it has resolved transportation issues.

2021/22 Revenue and Spending Report



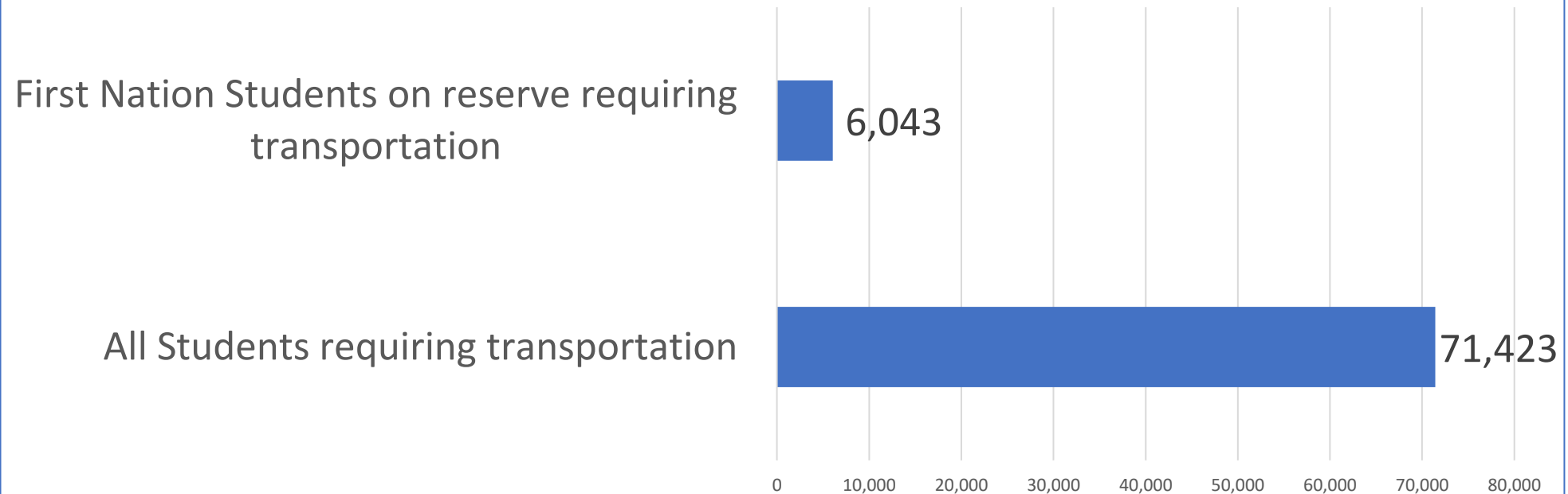
Out of 47 school districts that have Students living on reserve attending public school



2021/22 Revenue and Spending Report



First Nation Students requiring transportation, to all students requiring transportation*



*Out of 47 school districts that submitted a Reporting Template



Questions?

Important Dates



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March 1

Transportation Joint Plan Drop-in Session #1

April 12

Transportation Joint Plan Drop-in Session #2

May 17

Transportation Joint Plan Drop-in Session #3

May 24

2023/2024 Joint Plan submission deadline

May 24

2022/2023 Reporting submission deadline for school districts (First Nations sign off required)

Prior to the beginning of
the school year

Approval letters shared (subject to timely submission)

September 30

School district financial statements due to the Ministry

Questions and Contacts



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For questions about First Nation Student Joint Transportation Plan requirements or related materials:

School Districts may contact:

Jane London, Project Director
Funding & Financial Accountability
Ministry of Education and Child Care
Jane.London@gov.bc.ca or
BCTEA@gov.bc.ca

First Nations may contact:

Christian González, Manager
Local Education Agreements
First Nations Education Steering Committee
christiang@fnesc.ca

OR

Indigenous Services Canada
BC Education Mailbox
bceducation@sac-isc.gc.ca

Thank you for your participation!



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You will receive a short survey after this session.

- The BCTEA Parties request your feedback to understand how we can best share the most relevant information with you.
- This survey is voluntary, and responses are anonymous.
- If personal information is inadvertently provided, it will be deleted.
- Please email bctea@gov.bc.ca if you would you like to schedule a 1:1 meeting with BCTEA Parties.