

2025 - 2026 IMPACTS ON STUDENT LEARNING GRANT

Summary of Grant Opportunity

The BC First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) are pleased to announce grants to support First Nations and First Nations schools in addressing the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on student learning and well-being.

Widespread research, echoed by input from First Nations representatives, highlights serious concerns about COVID-related academic setbacks, significant attendance challenges, and serious social and emotional impacts for students. In response, specific strategies have been identified to help mitigate learning loss, such as:

- Providing more learning time / more learning opportunities by, for example, offering after school/ weekend learning programs, lengthening school days and periods, organizing extra-curricular activities and/or tutoring programs, etc.
- Implementing initiatives to address students' social emotional well-being.
- Making direct efforts to promote improved student attendance.
- Working in partnership with families to enhance at-home learning and family-school connections.

There is a total budget of approximately \$13,374,690 million for these 2025-2026 Grants to Address COVID-related impacts on students this year. Please note that future funding for these grants is not certain.

Overview of the Grants

The funding is being allocated to each eligible First Nation using a base-plus-per-student funding model. Please note, we encourage each Nation to partner with a First Nation school where relevant to better support students and use the funding together. **The funding grant available for your First Nation has been sent to your Nation's representative via DocuSign.**

Eligible Participants

The activities funded using these grants should be intended for students who are eligible for the ISC Nominal Roll – including students who are ordinarily resident on-reserve and attending a First Nation, public or independent school.

Eligible Expenditures

- Wages / fees for a program coordinator / education staff
- Consulting fees
- Honoraria for Elders or knowledge keepers
- Gifts for volunteers, including parent volunteers
- Costs of hosting a meeting / information sharing session (facilities, catering)
- Rental fees related to hosting learning opportunities
- Materials, supplies, books, home learning kits, etc.
- Attendance incentive costs
- Meals and snacks for student participants
- Transportation costs to bring students to a community-based learning opportunity, or for a field trip to a nearby library, museum, cultural site etc.
- Training for students or for the program coordinator
- Computers or technology equipment directly related to program implementation
- 'Other costs' associated with home-based learning needs that directly relate to the activity, cost subject for review and approval by FNEC, Programs Officer
- Administration fees (no more than 5% of the total program costs)

Ineligible Expenditures

- Capital expenses (buying transportation, purchasing a site, expanding or renovating a learning site, etc.)
- Purchase of furniture or major information technology (e.g. servers etc.)

Accessing the Grants

In order to access this grant, First Nations are asked to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) using the provided LOI document sent via email or found on our FNEC or FNSA website. Please submit your completed Letter of Intent by email to soniao@fnesc.ca by **Monday, October 27th, 2025**.

To support interested applicants, a Zoom information session will be hosted to answer questions and facilitate a sharing of ideas.

Wednesday, October 8th, from 3:30 – 4:30

Anyone requiring further information is also welcome to contact programs@fnesc.ca

Additional Important Notes:

- All First Nations are encouraged to supplement this funding grant with other financial resources, if appropriate, including any surplus education funding remaining from 2024-2025.
- First Nations are invited to use this funding for one or more of the eligible activities described in this information package. The scope of the planned activities should reflect each First Nations' expected circumstances and capacity in the coming year.

- Please submit plans that are consistent with your current expectations. If conditions change and revised plans are required, there will be appropriate flexibility to accommodate evolving circumstances. If your actual activities will differ significantly from your submitted plans due to new requirements, please inform FNEESC/FNSA of the program changes as soon as possible.
- No long-term funding has been identified for this initiative. We are not able to commit funds for multi-year plans.
- All Letters of Intent require a signature confirming endorsement from the First Nation (such as the Education Director / Coordinator, Band Manager, or Chief or Councillor).

For FNEESC to meet the requirements for this funding, all grants must be spent by March 31, 2026. We will require an Interim Report by March 23, 2026, in order to process your final 25% payment, and then a final report will be required by April 27, 2026. An Interim and Final Report template will be distributed prior to that date.

LETTERS OF INTENT ARE DUE BY **Monday, October 27th, 2025**

Completed Letters of Intent can be emailed to: soniao@fnesc.ca

Interim Reports for funded projects are due **March 23, 2026**

Final Reports are due **April 27, 2026**