

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister, for **Decision** at the request of the Governance Legislation and Regulation and the Learning Divisions.

SUBJECT: Limiting the amount of the money public and independent Distributed Learning (DL) schools offer for third-party resource credits in grades K-12.

BACKGROUND:

Current base funding for a DL FTE student attending public school is \$5,851 and \$250 for a registered home schooled child. A Group 1 independent DL school receives 63% of this amount (\$3,686) for enrolled DL students and \$175 for registered home schooled children. In a letter to FISA, government has committed to revisiting the independent DL group 1 and 2 school rates of 63%/44.1% of the public DL base rate in 2013/14.

The intent of enabling the use of third party services is so that DL students have access to educational services that are not easily delivered through DL. For example, a brick and mortar Physical Education curriculum might include swimming while a Fine Arts curriculum could include a music program. Third party services enable a DL student to access to similar learning, e.g. swimming or music lessons. In practice, access to third party services has led to competition between schools for DL students based on the amount of money provided for third party services.

The amount DL schools provide for third party services has traditionally not been set by the Ministry in either public or independent schools. While DL schools do not pay parents directly, and many DL schools (public and independent) offer \$1000 for enrolled students in grades K-9 as a resource credit. Some DL schools offer up to \$1200 per student. This third party credit pays for school-approved third party services and resources that assist students in meeting ministry curricular outcomes.

Requirements regarding reimbursements are set out in Ministry policy for public schools and in the DL agreements with independent schools. These requirements are generally parallel. Boards of education and independent school authorities are required to ensure that third party services are:

- part of the student's educational program, supervised by a certified teacher
- directly reimbursed by the board or authority to the service provider

DISCUSSION:

Although requirements regarding DL third party service payments prevent DL schools from using these payments as marketing and enrolment incentives, parents are fully aware of the allotment amounts that each DL school provides and "shop" for the DL school that offers the most in credit amounts. Consequently, there is upward pressure on the amount of third party

reimbursements and most DL schools feel pressure to match the current norm in order to remain competitive to students and families.

Third party educational resource credits are motivating many home-schooling parents to move to DL programs. A family enrolling 5 school-aged children in DL, for example, could potentially receive access to \$5000 for activities and resources while retaining most of the freedoms of home-schooling. DL schools provide a very limited service with little teacher involvement in these specific types of programs bringing into question the value the province is receiving by funding these programs at the DL rate of \$5,851 as opposed to the homeschooling rate of \$250.

Limiting the amount available for third party educational resource credits in grades K-12 for both public and independent DL schools will likely result in:

1. a portion of currently enrolled DL students returning to traditional home schooling,
2. a larger portion of the operating grant remaining within the DL school (rather than being paid out to 3rd party service providers), thereby;
 - a. providing greater financial resources to the DL school for improving program quality
 - b. reducing lobbying demands to increase funding to independent DL schools

In the DL context, many support services for students with special needs are provided by third parties. Further, post-secondary institutions and private sector skills training providers are defined as third parties. Therefore, limiting the amount of the operating grant to be used for third party resourcing would not apply to:

- the special purpose grant (supplementary funding) to support students with special needs in levels 1, 2 and 3 in achieving the goals in their Individual Education Plans,
- career technical centre program courses, and
- post-secondary transition program courses.

Please see the attached policy matrix for further analysis.

OPTIONS:

s.13, s.17

Page 3 redacted for the following reason:

s.13, s.17

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Governance, Legislation and Regulation Division

SUBJECT: Meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary for Independent Schools, Marc Dalton, on July 2, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

Marc Dalton has been reappointed to the role of Parliamentary Secretary for Independent Schools. Over the past school year Parliamentary Secretary Dalton has developed a close working relationship with the Federation of Independent Schools' Associations (FISA) and spent time meeting with independent schools across the Province.

Parliamentary Secretary Dalton was influential in the approval of three funding policy changes in support of independent schools which will take effect in September of the 2013/14 school year. Specifically;

1. Funding for adult non-graduates enrolled in independent schools.
2. Increasing the Independent Group 1 Distributed Learning (DL) rate from 62% to 63% of the public DL school flat rate.
3. Reversing the calculation of the per pupil amount for independent school funding back to the September 30th reported enrolments as opposed to the full year enrolment count implemented in 2012/13. The return to the September 30th count effectively increases the per pupil rate for independent schools.

These changes are now reflected in Ministry policy and in the Independent School Regulation. Projected funding required to support these changes are:

Table 1: Changes to Independent School Funding Policy (\$ millions)			
	Fiscal Year Estimate		
	13/14	14/15	15/16
Adult Non-Graduate Funding	\$.600	\$ 1.2	\$ 2.0
DL Rate Changes to 63% and 44.1%	\$.357	\$.560	\$.639
Reversal to September 30 count	\$ 3.7	\$ 4.7	\$ 4.7
	<u>\$ 4.6</u>	<u>\$ 6.4</u>	<u>\$ 7.3</u>

DISCUSSION:

FISA Priorities

FISA has communicated the following three priorities for their association:

1. Independent school access to unused school property.

- Current legislation and policy requires boards of education to undertake a broad public consultation prior to disposing of property. Under this policy, a board of education must consult with local government, community organizations and the public on alternative community uses prior to disposal. In practice, independent schools have not had much success in competing for surplus public school properties in Lower Mainland districts. Many school districts view independent schools as competitors.


- s.13

2. Legislative amendments to support property tax exemptions for independent schools.

- Prior to 2012, the majority of municipalities in the Province provided independent schools permissive tax exemptions under *the Community Charter, Vancouver Charter or Taxation (Rural Area) Act* for the land surrounding the school building. Beginning in 2012, several municipalities have indicated that they will no longer provide permissive exemptions and only provide the statutory exemption for the building and the land upon which the building sits. While currently only a handful of municipalities have moved in this direction, the cost to independent schools is approximately \$15M. In West Vancouver alone this will total \$238K for three independent schools in 2013.
- The Ministry has provided support to FISA by way of information dissemination from BC Assessment and a list of legislation referencing tax exemptions for school property, both public and private.

- s.13

3. s.13, s.17

<u>Contact Information</u> Governance, Legislation and Regulation Division Phone (250)387-3711 File: 280-20	CA	Approved by: 
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
	June 28/13	Date signed: June 28, 2013

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister, for **Decision** at the request of the Governance Legislation and Regulation and the Learning Divisions.

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- post-secondary transition program courses.

Please see the attached policy matrix for further analysis.

OPTIONS:

Pages 9 through 12 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13, s.17

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Rob Wood, Deputy Minister, for **Information**, at the joint request of both the Learning and Governance, Legislation and Regulation Divisions

SUBJECT: Data Collection and Funding for cross-enrolled students in grades 8 and 9.

BACKGROUND:

Section 2 of the *School Amendment Act* (Bill 36), came into effect on February 12, 2013. In the first part of a phased implementation, students in Grades 8 and 9 will be able to cross-enrol between their neighbourhood school and one or more Distributed Learning schools beginning September, 2013. This provision amends section 3.1 of the *School Act* to allow students in Kindergarten through Grade 9 to enroll in more than one educational program for the purposes of accessing a combination of bricks-and-mortar and distributed learning. Previously, the opportunity for cross-enrolment was limited to students in Grades 10 to 12.

The Ministry of Education convened an external stakeholder advisory group to establish an implementation plan for K-9 cross-enrolment. The advisory group included representation from the British Columbia School Trustees Association, British Columbia School Superintendents Association, British Columbia Principals' and Vice Principals' Association, and the Federation of Independent School Associations. The advisory group met on April 17, 2013 and recommended that, while cross-enrolment in grades K-9 is well intended, the system is not ready for full implementation. It recommended that the Ministry pursue a phased implementation to provide British Columbia's educational system with additional time to implement personalized learning and provincial student information systems.

The Ministry of Education has adopted the external stakeholder group recommendation and has developed a plan for data collection and funding procedures for cross-enrolled Grade 8 and 9 students.

DISCUSSION:

The Ministry of Education established an internal working group to develop options to support data collection and funding of cross-enrolled students in grades 8 and 9. This group met on three occasions and determined that given the time constraints for implementation and the current state of internal and external data collection systems (SLD and BCeSIS) and the existing funding model for grades 8 and 9 s.13

Data Collection

Data collection of students cross-enrolled in grades 8 and 9 will use the existing summer school framework of reporting. Cross-enrolling schools will report only cross-enrolled students in grades 8 and 9 in July 2014, during the summer reporting period. Specific data collection instructions will be sent to both public and independent schools over the coming months.

Funding

- Students cross-enrolled in a public DL school will be funded at a flat rate of \$400 per course reported.
- Students cross-enrolled with an independent DL school will be funded at the schools traditional group classification rate; 50% (\$200) for Group 1 schools and 35% (\$140) for Group 2 schools.

\$400 per course is aligned with funding for a full 4 credit course in summer school. Funding cross-enrolled students in grades 8 and 9 will result in Ministry funding more than 1 FTE adding to Ministry fiscal pressures. Based on 2012/13 enrolment data, if 10% of grade 8 and 9 students cross-enrol in 1 DL course, at \$400 per course, the funding requirement will be an additional \$3.35M.

Consultation

- Formal consultation regarding Bill 36 occurred on April 17, 2013 with all key stakeholders represented. This consultation resulted in a consensus position that the system was not ready for full implementation of K-9 cross-enrolment and that a phased implementation starting with grades 8 and 9 in 2013/14 was preferred. The Ministry of Education has adopted this recommendation. Decision note attached.

s.13, s.17

Attachments:

- 167763 - Decision Note Bill 36 Implementation_MPF.pdf
- Draft Field Communications: Changes to Distributed Learning: Bill 36

<u>Contact Information</u> Governance, Legislation and Regulation 250-356-6760 280-20		Approved by:
	ADM initial	Rob Wood Deputy Minister
		Date signed:

Funding for Distributed Learning(DL)

- Independent DL school enrolment has increased by 150%; from 3,473 FTEs in 2007/08 to 8,730 FTEs in 2013/14.
 - A funding policy change implemented in 2012/13 amended independent DL school funding to a percentage of the public DL provincial flat rate of \$5,851, instead of the local district per pupil amount as its base.
 - This change was made to address an inequity created when some independent DL schools were receiving greater grants than other independent DL schools or even than their public counterparts.
 - At this time the Federation of Independent Schools Associations (FISA) argued that funding DL at 50% and 35% would create significant financial pressures on these schools to the point of closure and successfully lobbied for 62% of the public DL flat rate, or \$3,627.62
 - A policy decision in the spring of 2013 has further increased independent DL funding rates to 63% (\$3686.13) and 44.1% respectively for 2013/14 school year.
 - DL schools also have seen noticeable increases in enrolments of students with special needs. Between 2008/09 and 2013/2014 the FTE count for students with special needs in independent DL schools increased from 195 to 801 FTEs (310%) representing 26% of all students with special needs funding (FTE) in independent schools.

Year	DL FTE	DL FTE Growth	DL Operating Grants	Grant % Growth
2007/08	3,473		\$12,651,365	
2008/09	4,081	14.90%	\$15,891,747	20.39%
2009/10	5,008	18.51%	\$19,787,890	19.69%
2010/11	5,762	13.09%	\$23,597,951	16.15%
2011/12	6,763	14.80%	\$27,592,584	14.48%
*2012/13	7,654	11.64%	\$28,046,971	1.62%
**2013/14	8,729	12.32%	\$35,625,015	21.27%

* 2012/13 was the first year of the flat rate funding model granting independent DL schools 62% of the public DL flat rate of \$5,851.

** Projected funding for 2013/14 based on preliminary FTE data. Grant increase partially due to 1% increase in funding percentage from 62% to 63%, or \$58.51 per FTE. Total estimated cost of the policy change based on preliminary 1701 data is \$510,734.

Not Responsive

s.17, s.13

Not Responsive

Independent school funding model	
Capital	

Pages 17 through 23 redacted for the following reasons:

s.12

s.13, s.17

Option 1

s.12, s.17

School District	Estimated Operating Grants		s.17, s.12
	Current Operating Grant Formula		
	2013/14	s.12, s.17	
5 Southeast Kootenay	49,399,277		
6 Rocky Mountain	30,952,576		
8 Kootenay Lake	48,140,089		
10 Arrow Lakes	7,241,977		
19 Revelstoke	9,776,164		
20 Kootenay-Columbia	34,946,471		
22 Vernon	68,903,221		
23 Central Okanagan	174,240,963		
27 Cariboo-Chilcotin	52,055,948		
28 Quesnel	34,175,037		
33 Chilliwack	107,558,468		
34 Abbotsford	155,096,011		
35 Langley	153,468,193		
36 Surrey	561,803,963		
37 Delta	127,270,383		
38 Richmond	171,909,643		
39 Vancouver	440,856,181		
40 New Westminster	54,576,363		
41 Burnaby	190,136,487		
42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	113,816,390		
43 Coquitlam	243,930,949		
44 North Vancouver	120,997,701		
45 West Vancouver	52,230,567		
46 Sunshine Coast	33,480,012		
47 Powell River	20,867,452		
48 Sea to Sky	38,713,595		
49 Central Coast	5,179,431		
50 Haida Gwaii	10,066,911		
51 Boundary	15,275,674		
52 Prince Rupert	24,782,391		
53 Okanagan Similkameen	22,845,813		
54 Bulkley Valley	22,083,365		
57 Prince George	118,110,509		
58 Nicola-Similkameen	24,152,307		
59 Peace River South	41,449,126		
60 Peace River North	53,166,836		
61 Greater Victoria	150,348,258		
62 Sooke	76,818,195		
63 Saanich	62,547,668		
64 Gulf Islands	18,955,298		
67 Okanagan Skaha	53,208,743		
68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith	114,057,222		
69 Qualicum	39,226,901		
70 Alberni	36,586,958		
71 Comox Valley	70,334,217		
72 Campbell River	48,373,634		
73 Kamloops/Thompson	123,680,068		
74 Gold Trail	19,643,451		
75 Mission	51,320,154		
78 Fraser-Cascade	18,847,638		
79 Cowichan Valley	69,150,631		
81 Fort Nelson	9,788,610		
82 Coast Mountains	50,205,094		
83 North Okanagan-Shuswap	60,341,088		
84 Vancouver Island West	7,712,754		
85 Vancouver Island North	17,858,577		
87 Stikine	5,496,631		
91 Nechako Lakes	49,705,908		
92 Nisga'a	7,291,811		
93 Conseil scolaire francophone	64,355,170		
Holdback	59,619,233		
Provincial Totals	4,719,130,356		

Option 2

s.12, s.17

School District	Estimated Operating Grants		s.12, s.17
	Current Operating Grant Formula		
	2013/14	s.12, s.17	
5 Southeast Kootenay	49,399,277		
6 Rocky Mountain	30,952,576		
8 Kootenay Lake	48,140,089		
10 Arrow Lakes	7,241,977		
19 Revelstoke	9,776,164		
20 Kootenay-Columbia	34,946,471		
22 Vernon	68,903,221		
23 Central Okanagan	174,240,963		
27 Cariboo-Chilcotin	52,055,948		
28 Quesnel	34,175,037		
33 Chilliwack	107,558,468		
34 Abbotsford	155,096,011		
35 Langley	153,468,193		
36 Surrey	561,803,963		
37 Delta	127,270,383		
38 Richmond	171,909,643		
39 Vancouver	440,856,181		
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60 Peace River North	53,166,836		
61 Greater Victoria	150,348,258		
62 Sooke	76,818,195		
63 Saanich	62,547,668		
64 Gulf Islands	18,955,298		
67 Okanagan Skaha	53,208,743		
68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith	114,057,222		
69 Qualicum	39,226,901		
70 Alberni	36,586,958		
71 Comox Valley	70,334,217		
72 Campbell River	48,373,634		
73 Kamloops/Thompson	123,680,068		
74 Gold Trail	19,643,451		
75 Mission	51,320,154		
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91 Nechako Lakes	49,705,908		
92 Nisga'a	7,291,811		
93 Conseil scolaire francophone	64,355,170		
Holdback	59,619,233		
Provincial Totals	4,719,130,356		

Option 3

s.12, s.17

School District	Estimated Operating Grants Current Operating Grant Formula		s.12, s.17
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Ministry of Education

2014/15 Fiscal Year

Budget Overview

February 2014

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Link Between School Year and Fiscal Year	7

Ministry of Education - Budget 2014

The Resource Summary is the Ministry's three year budget plan as presented in the Service Plan.

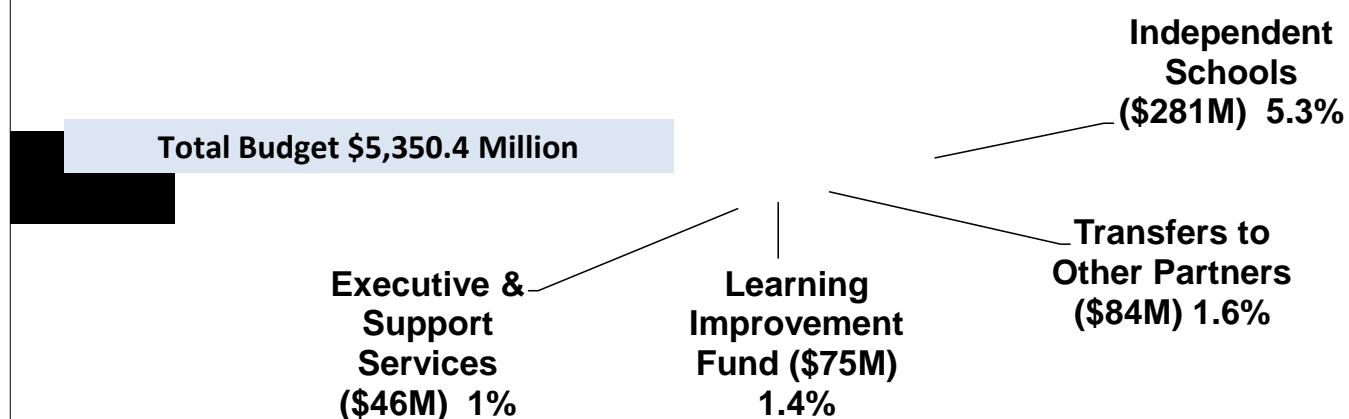
Core Business Area	2013/14 Restated Estimates ¹	2014/15 Estimates	2015/16 Plan	2016/17 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Public Schools Instruction	4,495,835	4,495,835	4,495,835	4,495,835
Public Schools Administration	368,974	368,974	368,974	368,974
Learning Improvement Fund	60,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Independent Schools	280,700	280,700	280,700	280,700
Transfers to Other Partners	78,075	84,087	88,075	88,075
Executive and Support Services	45,765	45,765	45,765	45,765
Special Accounts				
Children's Education Fund	30,001	30,001	30,001	30,001
Teachers Act Special Account	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Total Operating Expense	5,365,750	5,386,762	5,390,750	5,390,750
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	952	1,238	2	2
Capital Plan (\$000)				
Public Schools	469,054	438,217	421,118	450,898

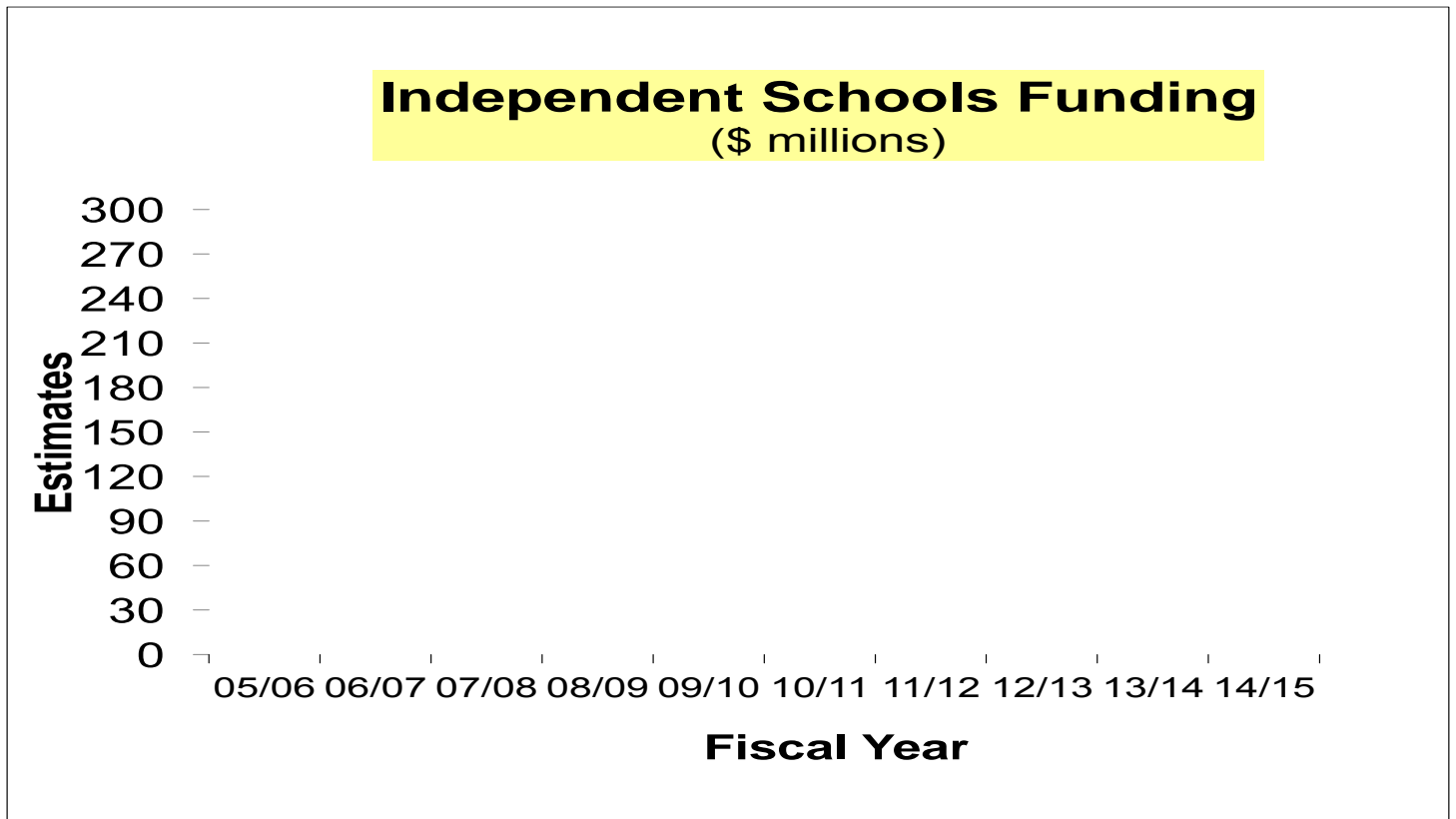
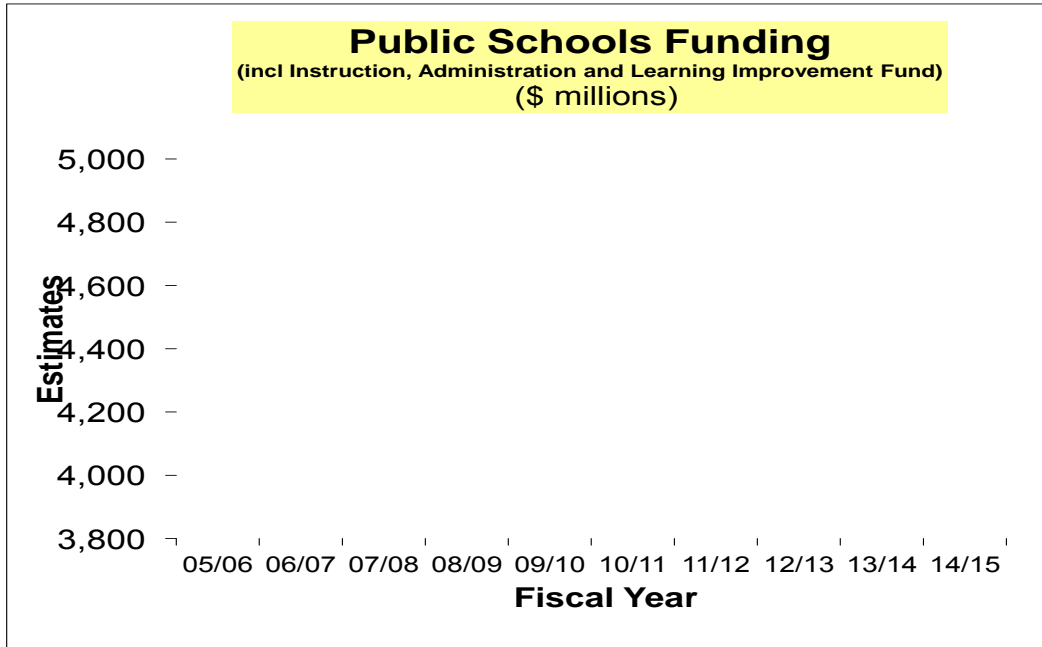
¹For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2013/14 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2014/15 Estimates. *Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#)."

Comparison of 2014/15 Budget to Prior Year (\$000)

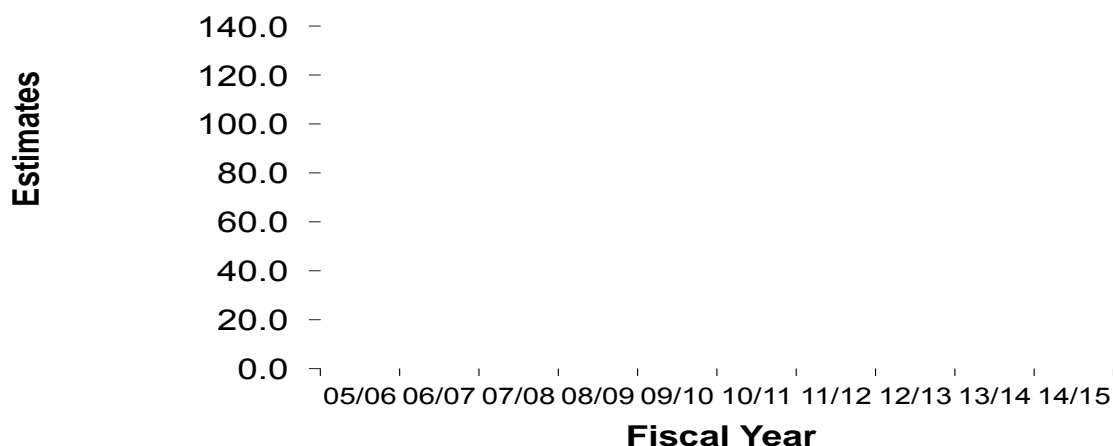
	2013/14 Estimates (Restated)	2014/15 Estimates	Change \$	Change %
Public Schools Instruction	4,495,835	4,495,835	-	
Public Schools Administration	368,974	368,974	-	
Learning Improvement Fund	60,000	75,000	15,000	25.0
Independent Schools	280,700	280,700	-	
Transfers to Other Partners	78,075	84,087	6,012	7.7
Executive and Support Services	45,765	45,765	-	
Ministry Operations (Vote 18)	5,329,349	5,350,361	21,012	0.4

2014/15 Budget Allocation



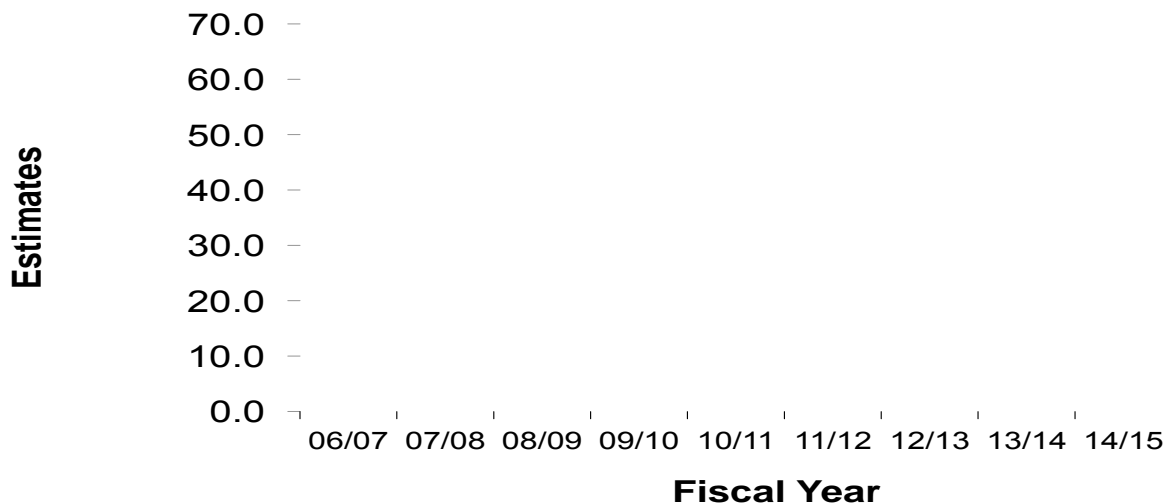


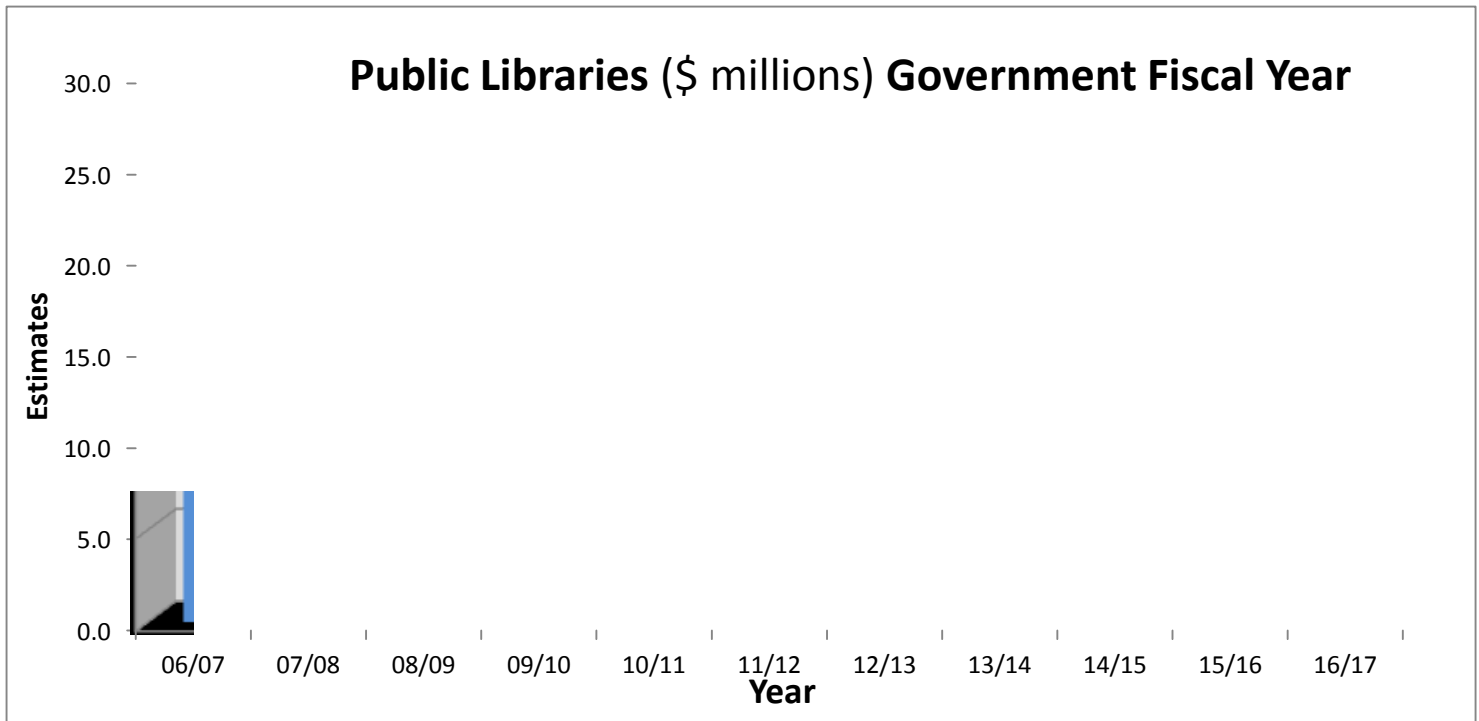
Transfers to Other Partners including Public Libraries (\$ millions)



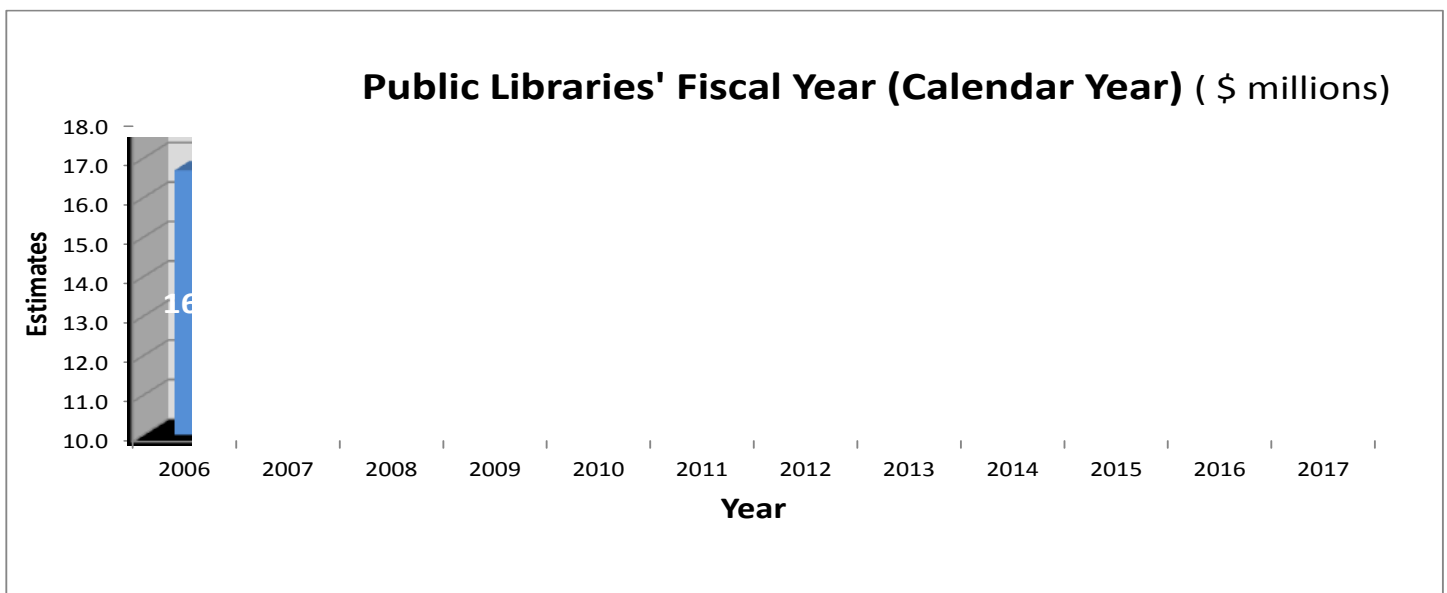
- The decrease in funding after 2008/09 resulted from the reduction in school renewal grants, public libraries grants and grants to other education partners.
- The increase in funding in 2012/13 and the fluctuations thereafter resulted from the timing change in Public Library grants.

Ministry Administration and Program Management (\$ millions)





- The next installments will be \$4M in the final quarter of 2013/14, \$10M in the summer of 2014 and \$14M in the summer of 2015.
- Libraries, federations and associations will receive grants of \$14M in each of their fiscal years (calendar year). See chart below.



Public Schools Funding
\$000's

Type of Funding ¹	2013/14 Restated Estimates	2014/15 Plan	Variance
Operating grants to School Districts	4,663,518	4,663,518	0
Infrastructure Related (AFG, Seismic, Leases, etc.)	44,565	44,565	0
Funding of Support Staff (Pay Equity, LTD, etc.)	70,305	70,305	0
Support for School Systems (CommunityLINK, PRP's, PLNet, etc.)	160,508	160,508	0
Learning Improvement Fund	60,000	75,000	15,000
Transfers to Support Public Schools	4,998,896	5,013,896	15,000

¹ This includes the Public Schools Instruction, Public Schools Administration, and Transfers to Other Partners sub-votes with the exception of Public Libraries. The intention is to show all funding to or on behalf of public schools consistent with the Ministry's presentation of this information in past years.

Ministry of Education

Link Between School Year and Fiscal Year

Calendar Year	2013						2014												2015					
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
School Year	2013/14 School Year (\$4,725)												2014/15 School Year (\$4,725)											
	7/10						3/10						7/10						3/10					
	Charged to 2013/14 Fiscal						Charged to 2014/15 Fiscal						Charged to 2014/15 Fiscal						Charged to 2015/16 Fiscal					
	\$3,308						\$1,417						\$3,308						\$1,417					
Provincial Fiscal Year																								
	2014/15 Provincial Fiscal Year																							
	\$1,417 plus \$3,308 = \$4,725																							
	Less AANDC share \$62 = \$4,663																							

Notes: All dollar amounts are in millions. AANDC = Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
The figures above do not include funding for the Learning Improvement Fund.

Pages 35 through 42 redacted for the following reasons:
