

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

DATE: April 3, 2020
CLIFF: 219089

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister - **FOR DECISION**

SUBJECT: Independent Distributed Learning (DL) School Funding

PURPOSE: Confirm rate reduction for independent DL schools

BACKGROUND:

- EDUC has previously received approval to reduce the funding rate for independent DL (IDL) schools from of 63% to 50% of the public school DL rate of \$6,100 (Appendix A). A difference of \$793 per full time equivalent (FTE) in funding^{s.17} -
s.13; s.17
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- To execute this policy change, the Ministry prepared an Order in Council (OIC) to amend the Independent School Regulation for to Cabinet approval in April 2020.
- The independent school funding rates for the 2020/21 would normally be announced in early April 2020 to allow ISAs to budget for the following school year and would reflect the drop in the IDL funding rate.

Facility Type	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	5-Year Change (%)
Independent DL	8,749	8,826	9,036	9,141	9,373	7.1%

Source: September 2019, Headcounts, Education Data Warehouse

DISCUSSION:

- s.17
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on IDL schools and future enrolments are unknown. EDUC has moved the IDL enrolment count that normally occurs in May 2020 to April 7, 2020, to reduce the possibility of a large cost-pressure for EDUC should there be a spike in IDL enrolment from students previously funded in brick and mortar schools after the March 17, 2020 announcement suspending in-school instruction.

- This approach will provide stability of revenue for IDL providers and has been developed in conjunction with the Federation of Independent Schools Associations (FISA).
- s.13; s.17
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- A future increase to the public DL funding rate to better support online learning will also increase funding to IDL.

PROGRAM OPTIONS:


Option 1 – Implement the IDL rate as reduction of 63% to 50% for the 2020/21 fiscal year as planned – Continue with OIC (**Recommended**).

s.13; s.17

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

Option __1__


Approved/Not Approved
Rob Fleming
Minister of Education

April 6, 2020

Date Signed

Attachment(s):

1. Appendix A: 217578 Budget 2020 target options

Program ADM/Branch: Reg Bawa/Resource Management Division

Program Contact (for content): Jonathan Foweraker, Funding and Financial Accountability Branch

Drafter: Jonathan Foweraker

Date: March 27, 2020

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12; s.17