

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: May 16, 2022
CLIFF: 281160

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister – **FOR INFORMATION**

SUBJECT: Novel Cleaning Technology

PURPOSE: Information and background on innovative air enhancement system and funding limits in AFG and SEP.

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) has capital funding programs such as the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG - \$120.5 million in FY2022/23), School Enhancement Program (SEP - \$70 million in FY22/23) and Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP - \$23 million in FY22/23) which can be used to upgrade ventilation systems in school facilities.
- School Districts submit their 5-Year Capital Plans on an annual basis that include funding requests for projects under SEP and CNCP.
- AFG spending plans are also submitted by school districts to ECC on an annual basis.
- Capital projects eligible for AFG, SEP and CNCP funding can be found here:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/capital/programs>
- ECC staff have previously spoken with Sterasure and several other companies marketing their ventilation and cleaning products.

DISCUSSION:

- Given ECC staff knowledge of the CAPSR product based on conversations with representatives from Sterasure, it would be eligible for funding under AFG.
- There are billions of dollars in deferred maintenance (roofs, boilers, etc. that are near end of life) within the educational facilities in BC that will need to be addressed so school districts factor this in when prioritizing capital investments.
- Products such as CAPSR may not be the top priority capital investments for school districts.
- Since 2017, ECC funding for SEP, CNCP and AFG has increased by \$23 million.
- To date, \$166.5 million (including \$153.4 million from ECC) has been spent on HVAC projects in the BC public school sector since the pandemic started.
- ECC staff have encouraged companies such as Sterasure to connect directly with school districts as they are the owners and operators of educational facilities and are responsible for making decisions regarding particular products.
- In addition, ECC staff have encouraged Sterasure and other companies to attend events such as the BC Education Facilities Managers Association Annual Conference to market their products to the sector.

CONCLUSION:

ECC staff have previously spoken with Sterasure and have recommended that they connect directly with school districts regarding their products. In addition, ECC staff have also recommended to Sterasure that they consider attending the BC EFMA Annual Conference as that is the premier venue for companies to market their products to BC school districts.

Program ADM/Branch: Chris Brown

Program Contact (for content): Francois Bertrand

Drafter: Damien Crowell

Date: May 16, 2022

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: May 9, 2022
CLIFF: 281276

PREPARED FOR: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister – **FOR INFORMATION**

SUBJECT: Collective Bargaining – Class Composition Provisions

PURPOSE: s.17

BACKGROUND:

- Following the 2016 Supreme Court of Canada decision to restore class size and composition language in teacher collective agreements, Arbitrator Jackson was tasked with determining which special education categories should be used for class composition: the language from 2002 or new categories that had emerged since then.
- The Arbitrator determined that class composition would be based on the criteria when the language was removed (the “Jackson Award”). These criteria are within the 1995 Ministry of Education Manual of Special Education (the “1995 Manual”).
- This decision impacted class composition requirements for two special education categories that had changed significantly since 2002:
 - Category G (Autism) had become Category G (Autism Spectrum Disorder)
 - Category J (Severe Learning Disabilities) had become Category Q (Learning Disabled)
- In particular, the shift from Autism to Autism Spectrum Disorder was fairly significant – moving to a spectrum disorder encompassed a much larger range of criteria and higher number of students were eligible for the designation and to receive funding.
 - In 2021/22, there are 18,980 students province-wide who are being funded under Category G.
 - The 1995 criteria describes what would now be “severe Autism” in the Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis. Research estimates that approximately 1 out of 3 cases of diagnosed Autism are severe.
 - At a high level, using these assumptions, there are likely to be approximately 6,300 students province-wide who would meet the 1995 Autism criteria.
- Special education category definitions are important as they continue to determine the number of students that are included in class composition calculations. Moving from a more expansive definition to a less expansive definition means that fewer students will meet the designation criteria and that the numerator for establishing class composition will be lowered. Students who meet the 2002 criteria are still funded, but school districts build classrooms based on the 1995 criteria.
- At the time, BCPSEA shared information about the Jackson Award with school districts but did not provide sector-wide direction on how it should be implemented.
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- Through this process, some students who were considered Category G or Q for student funding purposes were no longer considered as Category G or J for class size and composition purposes.

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DISCUSSION:

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NEXT STEPS:

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Attachments:

1. Attachment 1_ s.17
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2. Attachment 2_
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Program ADM/Branch: Keith Godin/Education Policy Branch
Program Contact (for content): Cloe Nicholls
Drafter: Linda Beddouche
Date: May 9, 2022

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