

Conclusions

The Committee acknowledged the need for predictable, stable and adequate funding for K-12 education, and a need for a review of the current funding formula. The Committee repeated recommendations from their 2015 report in relation to capital and operational funding for K-12 education. The Committee further recommended increased supports and services for vulnerable students and students with special needs.

Many innovative suggestions were made on how to best use public school infrastructure. There are opportunities to better leverage this infrastructure to the benefit of the school system and the community.

The Committee was pleased to hear positive reviews regarding the new curriculum from parents, teachers and school boards. They also recognize the challenges associated with implementation, and support increased funding for additional resources to facilitate this transition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Capital Funding

45. Provide adequate capital funding to urban and rural school districts for facility improvements, seismic upgrades and additional schools in rapidly-growing communities. (2014: #23 and 2015: #1)
46. Recognize portables as a capital expense for school districts, rather than as an operating expense.
47. Partner with local organizations to utilize education-related infrastructure when classrooms are not in use and to incorporate school board offices in under-capacity schools.

Operational Funding

48. Address inequities in the Ministry of Education funding formula, including discrepancies in the programs and services offered in rural or urban communities, as well as in administrative staff compensation levels. (2015: #3)
49. Provide predictable, sustainable and adequate yearly funding to enable school districts to fulfil their responsibility to continue to provide access to quality public education,

with recognition of the increased costs that school districts have incurred. (2014: #22 and 2015: #2)

50. Increase funding to provide services and supports for vulnerable students and students with special needs and develop a more equitable distribution process of this funding.

Programming

51. Fund additional support and resources to implement the new curriculum.
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