

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

315, rue Front Street Ouest
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2024: SB21

Date: October 7, 2024,

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Senior Business Officials
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Claudine Munroe
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Assistant Deputy Minister
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Subject: 2024-25 Updates to: *Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) Instructions for First Nations and School Boards*

Thank you for your support in the implementation of the Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) and collaborative efforts to continue improving First Nations students' access to education.

In this package, please see the updates made to the REA Instructions for the 2024-25 school year.

The REA Instructions is a guidance document developed to provide helpful information on how to implement the various components of the REA, including, but not limited to, information on school and student eligibility, the base fee, student enrolment, and payment and reporting schedules.

The following additional materials are attached to support school boards and First Nation and Federally-operated schools adhere to the necessary processes for the 2024-25 school year:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Student Enrolment List
- Student Information Report.

Changes to the REA Instructions for 2024-25

The 2024-25 edition of the REA Instructions include updates to Core Education Funding (“Core Ed”, previously known as Grants for Student Needs (GSN)) which impact the REA base fees and claims-based amount.

Specific adjustments and enhancements to the 2024-25 Core Ed include, but are not limited to:

- Labour-related adjustments to benchmarks. Note: These amounts will be updated through benchmarks in revised school board projections for school boards, as well as to the base fees, to be released by early September.
- For school boards, the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) component continues to be based on an interim formula with adjustments to reflect benchmark updates in 2024-25. However, for the REA framework the process for negotiating additional special education staffing amounts will continue to reflect the 2022-23 claims-based approach. As in 2023-24 REA, the maximum claims-based amount in the 2024-25 REA will be updated annually to reflect benchmark updates.
- For school boards, the Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) funding has been modernized in 2024-25. However, to maintain stability and ensure no negative impacts to students under the REA context, the ministry will continue with the SEA policy from 2023-24 in the 2024-25 REA framework. Therefore, the 2024-25 base fee will reflect the 2023-24 SEA Per-Pupil amount and the 2024-25 process for negotiations for special education equipment costs will reflect the 2023-24 claims-based approach and deductible.
- The Professional Assessments component within the Differentiated Needs Allocation has been added (transferred to Core Ed in 2024–25).
- A five-year phase-in for 2021 Statistics Canada census updates beginning in 2024-25 to help ensure that the funding better reflects and supports the on-the-ground needs of school boards. Note: The census updates to the Rural and

Northern Education Allocation will be fully implemented in 2024–25.

- The Safe and Clean Schools Supplement has sunset (discontinued funding in 2024–25)
- The One-Time Realignment Mitigation Fund has sunset (funding was time-limited only for 2023–24)

The base fee calculations, which have been restructured along with the Core Ed, also reflect changes to existing funding within each component.

We encourage all staff responsible for enrolment, particularly school principals and administrators, to review these documents.

If you require further information about the REA, please contact:

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Attachments:

- 2024-25 REA Instructions for First Nations and School Boards
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Student Enrolment List (SEL) (excel)
- Student Information Report (SIR) (excel)