



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

Office of the Minister



AR94408

JUN 02 2016

Ms. Joy Bowen-Eyre
Board Chair
Calgary Board of Education
1221 - 8 Street SW
Calgary AB T2R 0L4

Dear Ms. Bowen-Eyre:

Thank you for your May 12, 2016 letter regarding Calgary Board of Education's (CBE) student transportation funding concerns.

Despite our current fiscal challenges, our government remains committed to ensuring all students in Alberta have access to a quality education that meets their learning needs. Alberta Education places great value on the transportation services provided by school boards throughout the province in safely transporting nearly 300,000 students to and from school every day.

School board funding for transportation services continues to increase every year. Transportation funding in Budget 2016 is \$300 million, which is an increase of \$5.5 million, or 1.9 per cent, from the 2015/2016 school year.

I am pleased that your board has been actively engaged with parents this spring as you review your current transportation service levels. I appreciate CBE's desire to provide an equitable level of transportation service for all students, including those students who are not attending their designated community schools. However, I would like to remind you that the student transportation funding Alberta Education provides to school boards is only intended to support the transportation of students who reside 2.4 kilometres or greater from their designated school. The funding is not intended to support transportation of students attending alternative programs offered by a school board. If your board chooses to provide an increased service level from what is mandated, you have the flexibility to do so within the resources provided.

I certainly understand the extra costs associated with providing transportation service for students who cannot ride a regular bus route due to the nature of their disability, especially those students who require transportation to a school that is different from their designated community school.

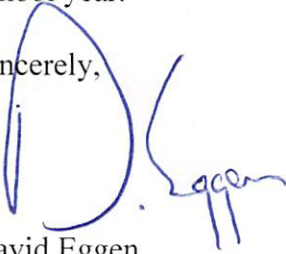
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I encourage your board to continue to look for efficiencies in how you provide this service.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns with me on behalf of the Calgary Board of Education. I wish you and all the students served by CBE a successful completion of this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Eggen". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped initial "D" and a cursive "Eggen" following it.

David Eggen
Minister