

June 9, 2016

## New CBE budget measures effective June 9

Dear staff,

As we wind down our current school year, we are also preparing for the year ahead. It has been a year full of challenges which you have fully embraced. I am proud to lead a system whose staff has enthusiastically welcomed students from near and far. You have shown us all, once again, how to deliver a world-class education. Both in and out of the classrooms, our employees continue to make a difference in the lives of students.

Our 2016-17 budget will go to the Board of Trustees on June 14. We have been funded by the provincial government for growth next year. In a time of economic hardship throughout the province, the Province has prioritized education. However, there are still many strains on our system. Please see the [Budget Assumptions Report](#) (BAR) that was presented to the Board on May 17 for more information on current system financial challenges.

The BAR shows that we are facing a \$20 million deficit next year. We should be able to manage this deficit by using our savings (our reserves) and by introducing a number of new spending control measures.

These savings are a one-time resource that we can't count on having every year. The spending measures will remain in effect for the long term and will be integral to balancing our budgets in future years.

I sent a [memo to budget owners](#) this afternoon regarding the spending control measures, which are **effective today**. The measures include the careful monitoring of spending on conferences, travel and meals; superintendents' team review of all job postings in service units, including vacancy fills; and monitoring of our [highest priority projects](#). Notable priorities for 2016-17 are:

1. Continue to personalize learning for all students and optimize student success by:
  - advancing K-12 strategies in literacy and math
  - improving results for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students
  - refining our high school success strategy
  - advancing leadership practices
2. System initiatives that will have a positive impact on the learning outcomes of students are:

- Building, modernizing and operationalizing 31 schools and maintaining more than 200 existing schools to foster enriching learning environments for all students
- developing and implementing a new student information system that improves access to and use of data to support best practices in assessment and grading and creates administrative efficiencies
- implementing our public engagement framework (dialogue framework) to guide decision making and to ensure stakeholders are reasonably included in decisions that affect them

We will continue to ensure that our budget and these measures reflect our values:

- Students come first.
- Learning is our central purpose.
- Public education serves the common good.

Thank you for your patience and support as we implement these measures. Our budget must support the needs of students in the classroom to ensure their success, and these measures will help us achieve that.

I welcome your feedback on the budget. Please visit the [budget feedback form](#) if you have thoughts or suggestions. You can keep up to date on the 2016-17 budget [online](#).

Sincerely,  
David Stevenson  
Chief Superintendent of Schools