

## Welcome Back!

*September is always a very busy month for independent schools. This year will be busier as the province prepares for a provincial election on May 9, 2017. The rhetoric regarding public school funding, and by extension the partial funding of independent schools, also increases especially since a number of groups are attempting to make this a wedge issue between the government and the opposition party.*

*As in previous election years, FISA will take a lead role in addressing the critics so that teachers and administrators can concentrate in ensuring that students are getting an excellent education. We will be communicating our strategy to independent school authorities to ensure that accurate information about partial public funding of independent schools is being communicated in every sector of the Province. The voice of independent schools must also be heard addressing the economic benefits provided to BC taxpayers, the opportunities of educational choice is offered to families, and the excellent education that is provided by independent schools throughout the Province.*

## Grant Payment Order

In April 2016, FISA requested changes to the Grant Payment Order due to the number of independent schools that were requiring a line of credit from lending institutions to meet financial obligations between grant payments. We are very grateful to the Minister and the Independent Schools Branch for supporting our request for adjustments to the Grant Payment Order. FISA encourages school authorities to send a note of appreciation to the Hon. Minister Bernier at [educ.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.minister@gov.bc.ca).

<i>Old Schedule</i>		<i>2016/17 Amended Schedule</i>	
20%	On or before October 31	30%	On or before September 31
30%	On or before January 31	40%	On or before January 31
20%	On or before March 31	30%	On or before June 30
30%	On or before June 30		

### 2016/17 Operating Grant Payment Details

- The September payment remains based on May 15 ES Audit FTE.
- The January payment remains payment to adjust for reported September 1701 FTE and the December recalculated per pupil rates.
- The March payment is eliminated.
- The June payment remains a reconciliation payment based on the current years ES Audit and compliance audit program recoveries

Federation of  
Independent  
School  
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## **D**iscrimination Protection Policy

The Minister of Education has issued an Order to protect sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), along with other forms of bullying such as gender, race, culture or religion in a school's discrimination protection policy. It is important that all students feel valued, respected and connected within their school community. Last Spring, FISA asked all independent schools to develop a policy dealing with the protection of students from abuse, bullying, harm and the threat of harm by June

2016. The Discrimination Protection Policy provided by the FISA Board of Directors already included sexual orientation so the addition of gender identity was not a significant change to the policy already approved by the board. A revised Discrimination Protection Policy or similar policy must be in place in all independent schools by December 31, 2016. Independent schools that already have the inclusive language do not need to make any additional changes.

## **ERASE Bullying Training**



**Expect respect,  
and a safe education.**

FISA is working with the Ministry of Education to provide ERASE Bullying Training sites for independent schools so that all independent schools can have a minimum of one administrator and one educator trained in Level 1 and 2 ERASE bullying training. The purpose of this training ensures that school authorities know how to respond when there is a threat of violence or bullying taking place at the school. Schools that already have Level 1 and 2 training are encouraged to seek training in Level 3 or VTRA (*Violence Threat Risk Assessment*). The registration fees for ERASE Bullying training are paid for by the BC government.

ERASE Bullying schedules have been forwarded to all independent schools and updated schedules will be sent out regularly. FISA will be asking schools to complete a survey on the number of staff trained in ERASE Bullying, and the level of training by professionals in our schools. The purpose is to determine where the Ministry of Education needs to schedule training sessions for independent school staff and the level of training that is needed. FISA is asking independent schools to complete this information quickly so that we can schedule the necessary training in this school year.

## **P**ro-D on the New Curriculum

The FISA Board of Directors will be confirming the manner in which the \$200,000 in Pro-D funding will be allocated to the five associations within FISA at the September 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The plan is to provide each association with funding for Pro-D organized by associations and to arrange Provincial Pro-D sessions throughout the Province, prepared jointly by the Independent Schools Branch, Ministry of Education and FISA.

***Confirmation of funding, Pro-D locations around the province and registration processes will be confirmed by October 3, 2016.***

## **C**oding Training

The Ministry of Education has also provided independent schools with funding to support the training of teachers in teaching coding to students at the grades 6-9 level. The goal is to have trained teachers in independent schools who will be available to train other teachers in coding technology. Discussions are taking place with [www.lighthouseabs.ca](http://www.lighthouseabs.ca) and [www.kidscodejeunesse.org](http://www.kidscodejeunesse.org) to facilitate these training sessions at 3-4 locations around the Province. More details will be sent to independent schools once final arrangements can be confirmed.

## **S**kills, Trades and Technology (Support for Independent Schools)

**Contact:**

**Herb Krul** - 604.316.6128

[hkrul@timothychristian.ca](mailto:hkrul@timothychristian.ca)

**Sean Engbers** - 604.807.2073

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**Sean Engbers** and **Herb Krul** have again been hired by the Ministry of Education to assist independent schools in developing skills, trades and technology programs in schools, and to develop partnerships with industry, post-secondary and public sector organizations.

*Please contact them early as their schedules will be filling up quickly*

## **S**kills, Trades and Technology (Note the September 30<sup>th</sup> Deadline)

The Ministry of Education has allocated **\$20,000 for skills access grants** for independent schools and is pleased to announce the application process. Students in the education system considering or taking trades, technical, and career training are often limited in their access to teachers, shops, and equipment. This is particularly true in subject areas requiring industry-based staff, specialized equipment and instruction, and work placements.

The purpose of this funding initiative is to develop local and/or regional strategies to support student access to skills and trades training, as well as career development opportunities. This includes increasing the offerings, partnerships, and student participation rates in the Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sector such as coding.

*The application form is available on the eboard and must be received by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to allow for internal review, communications, and grant processing. Please email your applications directly to **Sophia Malczewska** at [Sophia.Malczewska@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sophia.Malczewska@gov.bc.ca). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sophia directly by email or phone **250.812.6252**.*

## Update on New Curriculum

**K-9 Curricula** for most areas of learning have now been finalized and are official for the 2016/17 school year with the signing of the updated Required Areas of Study in:

The **Educational Program Order:**

[http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/legislation-policy/legislation/schoollaw/e/m295\\_95.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/legislation-policy/legislation/schoollaw/e/m295_95.pdf)

And the **Educational Program Guide Order:**

[http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/legislation-policy/legislation/schoollaw/e/m333\\_99.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/legislation-policy/legislation/schoollaw/e/m333_99.pdf)

The curriculum is available at  
[www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca](http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca)

There is a "**What's New**" document accompanying each area of learning. Teacher-created instructional samples are also available. Each instructional sample identifies clear connections to the Big Ideas, Learning Standards, and Core Competencies. First Peoples Principles of Learning and content are included in some samples.

**Draft of 10-12 curricula** are also ready for optional use in the classroom and for feedback.

## Curriculum Implementation Support

### *Are your teachers looking for instructional examples to support the implementation of BC's new K-9 curriculum?*

- Teacher-created instructional examples are now posted on the Ministry's Building Student Success website at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/instructional-samples>.
- Searchable by grade and subject area, the examples illustrate how teachers design their instruction with clear connections to the Big Ideas, Learning Standards, and Core Competencies.
- First Peoples Principles of Learning and content are also included in some examples.
- More instructional examples will be posted on the website through September, so please keep checking back.

### **T**obacco and Vapour Products Control Act

On September 1, 2016, legislation went into effect in British Columbia to ensure youth and non-users were not exposed to electronic cigarettes.

Of particular importance to school administrators, is the requirement that vapour products use is not allowed at any time on public and independent Kindergarten to Grade 12 school sites in the Province. The Government of British Columbia puts the health and safety of our youth first. As such, until more research is available on health impacts, students will be encouraged to not use these products or be exposed to the vapour emissions.

### **DRY GRAD Grant**

The LDB supports Dry Grad Committees (Grade 12 grads) throughout the Province that offer their graduating students an opportunity to celebrate their success in a safe manner, absent of alcohol. The BC Liquor Stores' Support Dry Grad Campaign takes place annually in March. An application form can be found on FISA website:

<http://fisabc.ca/services/schools/formsapplications>

## Ministry of Education Reorganization

*Dr. Ian Rongve, former Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, has transferred to the Ministry of Health. His replacement is **Ramona Soares** and her responsibilities include independent schools, home schooling, international education, and education partner relations. Ramona will also be the Ministry of Education representative responsible for the Teacher Regulation Branch. FISA looks forward to working with ADM Ramona Soares in supporting independent schools in policy, funding and regulatory matters.*



*The Ministry would like to recognize all the educators involved in the development process of this work, and for the assistance of the BC Teachers' Federation, Federation of Independent School Associations in BC, and the First Nations Schools Association, in identifying teachers for the writing teams. The Ministry would also like to thank superintendents and principals for support of this provincial initiative.*



## Drop, Cover and Hold On

The 2016 "Drop, Cover and Hold On" earthquake drill is scheduled for 10:20 a.m., October 20. Ensure your school's participation is counted by registering at [www.shakeoutbc.ca](http://www.shakeoutbc.ca)

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut is a fun and engaging way to talk to students about BC's seismic risk and why "Drop, Cover and Hold On" saves lives. It's also a great opportunity to raise the subject of emergency preparedness and how students can help their families get ready at home.

If you need assistance planning a drill or educational event, guides and other printable materials are available on the [ShakeOutBC website](http://www.shakeoutbc.ca) under the resources tab.

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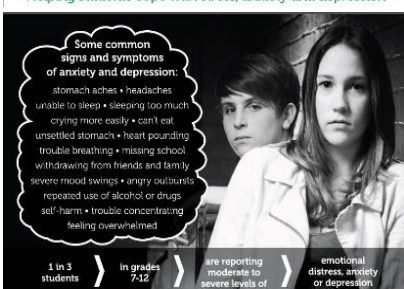
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Helping students cope with stress, anxiety and depression



Helping students cope with stress, anxiety and depression



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## Mental Health Posters for Middle/High School Students and Parents

With the start of the school year, many students are full of anticipation and excitement, but some may also be experiencing levels of stress, anxiety and even depression. We know that certain levels of stress and anxiety are normal, but how does a youth or parent gauge what is normal or when to seek help before a crisis occurs?

*The Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CYMHSU) Collaborative webpage provides downloadable posters intended for middle/high school students and parents about the common signs and symptoms of anxiety and depression as well as provides strategies that can help.*

To download the posters and learn helpful ways to distribute them in schools, please visit:  
<http://sharedcarebc.ca/initiatives/CYMHSU-Resources>