

## Without the necessary funding, the promise of inclusion is broken



### The promise

*"All students with disabilities or diverse abilities should have equitable access to learning opportunities for achievement, and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of their educational programs."*

Inclusive Education, BC Government

### The reality

In addition to the core education funding that school boards receive, the Ministry of Education and Child Care allocates supplemental funding for inclusion.

But:

- the Ministry only funds some inclusive education categories. For example, students with learning disabilities, those who need moderate behavioural support, and those who need enrichment opportunities do not receive supplemental funding.
- The funding that is provided is a lump sum, not designated for particular students or supports.
- For at least the past 17 years, there has been a persistent gap between the education funding boards receive and the funding needed to support inclusion. In 2023/24, for example, the provincial government only covered 72.3% of what boards needed to spend to provide inclusive education. There was a shortfall of \$340 million in that one year alone.

### The impact

Children and youth with disabilities or diverse needs have the right to a meaningful education in their neighbourhood public schools. Yet, many are without the services and supports they require. Parents/caregivers, support staff, and teachers can testify to the fact that inadequate and/or intermittent support seriously undermines the progress and well being of these children and youth.

### The solution

It's time to call on the government to:

-revisit the way in which inclusion is funded and ensure that school boards have the resources to properly support each and every student with disabilities or diverse needs.

-invite parents/caregivers, support staff, students, teachers, and administrators to share their experiences with the current reality versus the promise of inclusion.

-ensure the inclusion promise becomes a meaningful reality for all students needing additional supports and services.



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