

## BCMEA - Funding Review Model Response Highlights

### **Improving Equity**

The overarching theme of this document is to reduce the cost of education and school district budgets at the expense of student learning conditions, educator working conditions, and specialized programs. Under the guise of *equity*, this report seems to indicate that students should be expected to take no more than eight courses, essentially placing focus on academic learning outcomes and not the *whole student* outcomes. By removing a *per-course-funding model*, all teachers that teach students in multiple grade courses (music, drama, dance, arts, athletics, leadership, work experience, etc.) have an increased risk of losing their positions. The amount of FTE that could be lost throughout the province is staggering.

### **Consultation**

Many of the teachers in the province did not know about these consultations and were not informed about this review. While many stakeholders were consulted, the voice of music educators was not heard. Both the BCMEA and Coalition for Music Education in BC (CMEBC) are strong advocates representing music specialists across the province with significant and valid concerns regarding the effect this will have on music education in the province.

**Recommendation no. 8** – *“The Ministry should eliminate the Classroom Enhancement Fund and allocate this funding as part of school district operating grants. This will require negotiated changes to collective agreement provisions.”* To reiterate, the Classroom Enhancement Fund cannot be eliminated as it is part of our restored language.

The following is a statement from the Central Okanagan Music Educators Association, a Music Local Specialist Association.

The Central Okanagan Music Educators Association (COMEA) has unanimously supported the following statement:

*The music educators of the COMEA have carefully reviewed Recommendation 8 in the BC Ed Funding Review. The current "course-based" funding model has opened up powerful learning opportunities for Senior music students including:*

- creation of thriving courses in multi-grade senior choral and instrumental ensembles
- opening up cross-enrolment of high performing students between our schools, for best accessibility to all students
- offering of new courses where students can explore and/or specialize in music at all levels
- allowing flexibility for all students to best develop Competencies through engagement and enrichment across all courses, including arts, academics, trades/tech, languages, athletics, and leadership.

The proposed change to a *per-student funding model* would cancel many of these courses, causing inequities between schools and lost opportunities for students. Therefore, the COMEA urges the Minister to continue to support excellence in BC music education by preserving the current *per-course funding* model.