February 9, 2019

The Honourable **(First Name)(Last name)**

MLA **(riding)**

**(Address)**

Re: Improving Equity and Accountability

Dear (Salutation)(Last name),

Recently, I was made aware that there is a document entitled “Improving Equity and Accountability - Report of the Funding Model Review Panel 2018”. This document outlines recommendations supporting the *per-student funding model* rather than the current *course-by-course funding model.* If implemented, the majority of our music, musical theatre, dance, drama, leadership, enrichment, distributed learning, etc., programs could be taken out of our schools. Having a *per-student funding model* will impact both students and staff. It will limit students’ ability to participate in courses that are offered outside of the timetable and will reduce a teacher’s full-time equivalent (FTE) in their trained subject area.

The current *course-by-course funding* *model* has allowed the creation of enriched learning opportunities for performing arts programs, including multi-grade senior level classes that are offered outside of the timetable (which allows for flexibility for students with heavy academic schedules), cross-enrolment performance classes between schools in a district, offering of new courses where students can explore and/or specialize in at all levels allowing flexibility, and enrichment classes including arts, academics, trades/tech, languages, athletics, and leadership. The proposed *per-student funding model* would cancel many of these courses, causing a significant amount of lost opportunities for our students.

I personally do not want to see any of these enrichment programs reduced, however, I strongly believe that changing the funding model will do this. It will affect thousands of jobs, will affect students’ abilities to complete graduation requirements, and will change the course of education for decades to come. I urge you to defeat these recommendations and to keep the current *course-by-course* funding model.

I look forward to your response,

Sincerely,

(Your name), (City/town)