

## **Education Continuity Plan – Temporary Funding Reduction - Update March 31, 2020**

In a response to find efficiencies in all Ministries, the Education Ministry announced temporary funding adjustments to reflect reduced service requirements in an at-home learning environment.

All savings from these adjustments will be reallocated to support Alberta's COVID-19 response.

A letter from the Ministry has been sent to all school boards and independent schools related to their temporary funding adjustment. Each school district will manage their own financial decisions locally based on what they believe is best for their own students.

School authorities will see an adjustment to grades 1- 12 base instruction for May, June and transportation funding for April, May and June.

Regular funding will be restored when in person classes resume or in July, whichever comes first.

This adjustment does not impact Program Unit Funding (PUF) and PUF supports will continue.

This adjustment allows employers to continue to pay the benefit premiums for affected staff not receiving normal salaries.

School Boards are encouraged to keep Education Assistants (EAs) employed until the end of April 2020 and then reduce for May and June only if required to achieve adjustments. (local decisions)

Affected employees are encouraged to apply for employment insurance (EI) or other enhanced federal funding.

School nutrition programs are to continue – either directly, or through local not-for-profits.

Teachers and staff – such as speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, PUF EAs, mental health workers, family school liaison workers and physiotherapists – will continue to provide specialized supports and services, in consultation with families.

These adjustments are **temporary** to reflect the cost of delivering at home learning during the COVID-19 crisis, and redirect funds to support provincial response measures for Albertans.

***ASCA's belief in the decision-making authority of locally elected Boards of Trustees, is reflected in the operational guidance provided - where each school district will address their own funding and manage local decisions based on what they believe is best for their students.***