



June 21, 2024

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Dear Students, Parents, and Caregivers:

As we have reached the end of the 2023/2024 school year, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to every student, parent and caregiver for their hard work and dedication. I share my deep gratitude to everyone who is a part of our greater school community. I hope you can take some time this month to reflect on your accomplishments this past year.

As a parent, I understand the need to keep building better education opportunities while creating spaces where all students and staff feel safe and welcome. I am grateful for everyone who has played a role in making this possible in the past year by working towards issues like student safety, inclusivity, and greater engagement in our schools. This includes making school environments safer by helping to support access zones around schools so BC's K-12 students and staff will be protected from any disruptive protests or harassment. Ensuring everyone can access schools without fear or intimidation continues to be a top priority.

To keep kids safe and healthy, we have also asked school districts to have policies in place by next school year that will restrict personal digital devices in schools so students can focus on their education. We are also encouraging independent schools that do not yet have such policies in place to develop them. While technology is certainly a part of our lives, we are working towards providing kids and their families with the tools they need to develop healthy habits with devices.

Before we enter our summer holiday, I would also like to take this moment to highlight some of the other progress we have made this school year.

While schools across British Columbia are facing unprecedented enrolment growth, the Province has taken urgent action to make more spaces for students in fast-growing communities by funding new schools and expanding our current schools through prefabricated additions. Prefabs are new to most of the school districts in the province, and we have funded several projects this past year as an innovative construction option to build school additions faster as we welcome more students.

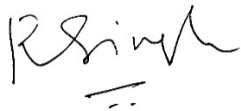
We have also remained focused on supporting students through initiatives like new early literacy screening for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 which will begin to roll out in 2024/2025 school year. This includes funding for provincial outreach teams that will provide resources for students to support their progress and learning development. .../2

Our government also understands that families are in much need of extra support due to the rising costs of living that are impacting all countries globally. This year, schools and districts received replenished funding through the Student and Family Affordability Fund to help support students and families who need it most to cover the cost of school related expenses. This is on top of the Feeding Futures funding to help expand school food programs throughout the province.

As the Minister of Education and Child Care, it has been one of my greatest honours to see the growth of our school communities throughout the year. These changes are a testament to all your hard work this year and I hope you feel proud of the milestones you have reached. I look forward to an even more exciting upcoming school year. To those graduating this year, congratulations and all the best with your future endeavours!

Once again, I am deeply grateful for your amazing work. Have a wonderful summer break!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Singh', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rachna Singh
Minister