



June 20, 2025

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Dear Educators, School and District Staff, and Trustees:

As we approach the end of the 2024-25 school year, I want to thank every one of you for providing support and leadership in our school communities. I share my deepest gratitude to every educator, school and district staff, leader and trustee. Your dedication and hard work are at the heart of what makes our education system world class.

I am proud to work with you to further our government's ongoing commitment to making schools safe and inclusive. Schools should be places where every child can show up as their authentic self, and where they can access the opportunities they need to grow and thrive. As one of the top-performing education systems in the world, school completion rates for all students are at the highest level ever, including significant strides in Indigenous graduations rates – now five percentage points higher than in 2017-18.

Thank you for working with government to strengthen programs to create safer and more focused learning environments. I have heard such positive feedback about the policies to restrict student cell phone use at school. Our continued work to support digital literacy to help students and families navigate online spaces safely and responsibly, through resources like our erase website, is making an impact. I am looking forward to next school year, where students will have the opportunity to engage in CPR learning. And I would like to acknowledge the school districts who already have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in their schools.

The two Provincial School Outreach teams are also doing excellent work with schools throughout British Columbia to support students with disabilities or diverse learning needs. Since 2017, our government has more than doubled funding to schools for inclusive supports and services – approaching almost \$1 billion this school year.

Kids cannot learn on an empty stomach. The food programs your teams have implemented to ensure students get stigma-free access to food when they need it are making a difference, right across this province. In addition to the \$71.5 million that the Province provides annually through Feeding Futures, we have signed onto the federal government's National School Food Program. This agreement provides an additional \$39 million over three years to school districts to further expand school food programs.

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I know schools need qualified and satisfied teachers and staff to thrive. To help address staffing pressures, the Province has allocated \$12.5 million over three years for teacher training, recruitment and retention, with a particular focus on rural and remote areas, and Indigenous teachers. We are also re-establishing a Provincial Teacher Mentorship Program to further support teachers in their roles and help with retention.

Through the new Ministry of Infrastructure, we are continuing to invest in modern, safe and inclusive learning spaces. Over the next three years, our government is investing a record \$4.6 billion in new school construction, seismic upgrades, and expansions.

We know how important child care spaces on school grounds are to communities, which is why we have funded over 14,000 new licensed spaces on school grounds since we launched the ChildCareBC program in 2018. Work with districts to expand access to before- and after-school care on school grounds continues to be a priority. We will keep working towards a future where access to quality, inclusive and affordable child care is a core service hard-working families throughout BC can rely on.

As the 2024-25 school year comes to a close, I hope you take time to reflect on everything you have accomplished through your work. As Minister of Education and Child Care, it has been an honour to meet and engage with many of you and see everything that you have achieved for students, families and your communities over the past year.

I cannot thank you enough for your time, dedication, and incredible contribution. Your passion powers our education system and shapes the future of our province. Enjoy your summer!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Beare', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Beare
Minister