# **Deputy Minister's Bulletin**

Ministry of Education and Child Care



Joint Verification Process and 2025-26 Joint Verification Process Form Backgrounder

September 19, 2025

## **Key Dates and Steps**

September 29, 2025 – School district 1701/First Nation Nominal Roll Count Date:

- In September, First Nations and school districts are encouraged to meet to
  complete the Joint Verification of the First Nation Nominal Roll and school district
  1701. First Nations will reach out to all relevant school districts where they have
  students attending public schools, including those outside their geographic area.
  School districts are also encouraged to connect with First Nations to ensure onreserve students attending public schools are on the Nominal Roll.
- This is the only student count date for the school year for the Joint Verification Process, regardless of whether students move districts after this date.

**October 10, 2025** – School districts submit 1701 to the Ministry of Education and Child Care:

 The Joint Verification conversation between school districts and First Nations should be complete.

**October 15, 2025 (on or before)** – First Nations submit the Nominal Roll to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC):

 The Joint Verification form between school districts and First Nations should be submitted to ISC by First Nations.

#### **Reminders:**

- First Nations and school districts with or without a Local Education Agreement (LEA) need to complete the Joint Verification Process.
- Joint verification is completed per school district.
- Keep a signed and dated copy of the Joint Verification form for your records.
- Changes to student information must be made prior to submission on both the Nominal Roll or the 1701 and must be based on the September 29<sup>th</sup> student count date.

- It is up to the First Nation (not the school district) to decide who to include on the Nominal Roll according to the Nominal Roll eligibility requirements, including whether the student is ordinarily resident on reserve.
- First Nations should <u>NO</u>T be invoiced for students reported on the Nominal Roll as
  Other, Inuit, Métis or First Nations students who are non-registered (non-status).
  ISC flows tuition to the Province for these students regardless of whether there is an
  LEA in place. School districts will be advised which students this applies to.

### **ISC Joint Verification Process Form**

- ISC has developed a <u>new JVP form</u> for the 2025–26 school year.
- It is a sample form that can be used when school districts meet with First Nations to complete the JVP.
- Please make sure the agreed upon JVP form includes the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)
   count that both the school district and First Nation agree upon.

#### **Resources:**

**2025–26 ISC BC Region Nominal Roll Instructions:** Updated annually by ISC for First Nations to assist with Nominal Roll and JVP submission. ISC is finalizing the 2025–26 ISC BC Region Nominal Roll Instructions. A link will be shared with school districts once final.

**2025–26 Learning Series Joint Verification Process:** <u>Presentation</u> shared with First Nations and school districts.

Questions may be directed to bctea@gov.bc.ca.