

Ministry of Education and Child Care Funding

The Ministry of Education and Child Care provides school districts with funding to support students with diverse learning, behavioural, physical, sensory, and medical needs. Some Inclusive Education categories are eligible for supplemental funding, while others are supported through the basic funding school districts receive for all students. Funding is provided to the school district to help meet anticipated student needs across the system and is not assigned directly to an individual student. A Ministry designation does not, by itself, determine the supports and services a student may receive.

Students with disabilities or diverse abilities may meet criteria for one of the Ministry of Education and Child Care's 12 Inclusive Education categories. In schools, this is often called a *designation*.

A designation is not based on a diagnosis alone. Each category has specific criteria related to the student's needs, educational program, and required supports. School districts are responsible for reviewing the information for each category and confirming each year that the criteria continue to be met.

New Westminster Schools has a clear process for designating a student when the criteria are met, and for removing a designation when they are no longer met. Both processes include meaningful consultation with the student's family. If a student no longer meets the criteria for an Inclusive Education category, parents/caregivers will be informed when the designation is removed.

Whether or not a student has a Ministry designation, schools and families continue to work together to support the student's learning, participation, and success. A student may have a diagnosed disability but not meet the criteria for a Ministry Inclusive Education category. Planning and support decisions are based on the student's unique strengths and needs, available information and school and district processes.

The following Inclusive Education categories may be reported by school districts for supplemental funding. This funding is provided to the school district to support anticipated needs and is not assigned directly to an individual student:

Level 1

- Physically Dependent (A)
- Deafblind (B)

Level 2

- Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability (C)
- Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment (D)
- Visual Impairment (E)
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing (F)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (G)

Level 3

- Intensive Behaviour Interventions or Serious Mental Illness (H)

The categories of Mild Intellectual Disability (K), Gifted (P), Learning Disability (Q), and Moderate Behaviour Support or Mental Illness (R) are supported through the basic allocation funding that school districts receive for all reported students. Basic allocation funding also helps school districts provide services such as school counselling, learning support, and district-level assessment services.

The specific requirements for each identification are outlined in the Inclusive Education Funding Allocation: Category Checklist.

Additional information on the supplemental funding allocation model can be found in the K-12 Inclusive Education Funding Policy