PURPOSE

This funding assists **school jurisdictions** in sparsely populated areas of the province to provide instruction to meet the learner expectations of students in smaller **schools**.

CONDITIONS

1. The following factors are used to determine whether or not a **school jurisdiction** qualifies for sparsity funding:

   - The geographical area, in square miles, of a **school jurisdiction** divided by the number of **funded students** has to be greater than 0.25 and less than or equal to 3.0

   OR

   - If the number of **funded students** is greater than 6,000 and the number of rural students is greater than 25 per cent but less than 50 per cent, the area divided by the number of **funded students** has to be greater than 0.07 and less than or equal to 3.0;

   AND

   - A **school jurisdiction** that serves 2,000 or more **funded students** uses the number of **funded students** that attend schools in population centres of less than 2,000.
   - Phase In: For **schools** located in population centres greater than 2,000, the sparsity rate will be lowered by $1.00 per extra person in the calculation for those schools only.
   - A **school jurisdiction** that serves fewer than 2,000 **funded students** uses the number of **funded students** that attend **schools** in population centres of less than 5,000.
     Phase In: For **schools** located in population centres greater than 5,000, the sparsity rate will be lowered by $1.00 per extra person in the calculation for those **schools** only.
     Phase In: The sparsity rate will be reduced by $1.00 for each **funded student** over the 2,000 **funded student** base.

   Sparsity Funding for **school jurisdictions** is calculated as follows:

Sparsity Funding	=	(Sparsity factor	-	0.25)	X	number of **funded students** in population centres less than 2,000	X	Sparsity rate

CONDITIONS (CONTD.)

2. A **school jurisdiction** serving fewer than 2,000 **funded students** may receive funding for students in all **schools** located in population centres less than 5,000.

- **Funded students**	1,980
- **Funded students** attending **schools** in population centres of less than 5,000	1,015
- Area	3,798 square miles
- Sparsity rate	$549

Calculation:

Sparsity factor = 3,798 ÷ 1,980 = 1.918

Sparsity funding = (1.918 - .25) X 1,015 X $549
= $929,468

3. A **school jurisdiction** serving more than 2,000 **funded students** may receive funding for students in all schools located in population centres less than 2,000.

- **Funded students**	3,467
- **Funded students** attending **schools** in population centres of less than 2,000 School A 960 } School B 1,092}	2,052
- Area	3,798 square miles
- Sparsity rate	$549

Calculation:

Sparsity factor = 3,798 ÷ 3,467 = 1.095

Sparsity funding = (1.095 - .25) X 2,052 X $549
= $951,933

4. If a **school jurisdiction** serves more than 2,000 **funded students**, it may include schools using the 5,000 population centre criteria provided they reduce the jurisdiction sparisty rate by $1.00 for every **funded student** over 2,000.

- **Funded students**	2,089
- **Funded students** attending **schools** in population centres of less than 5,000	1,275
- Area	1,825 square miles
- Sparsity rate	$549

CONDITIONS (CONTD.)

Calculation:

Sparsity factor = 1,825 ÷ 2,089 = .874

Sparsity funding = (.874 - .25) X 1,275 X ($549 - (2,089-2,000))
= $365,976

5. If a **school jurisdiction** has a **school** in a population centre which is over the population threshold, it may include that **school** provided they reduce the sparsity rate for that **school** only, by $1.00 for each person above the population threshold.

Sparsity funding using a sample jurisdiction serving more than 2,000 **funded students**, but with **schools** in population centres over the population threshold of 2,000 would be calculated as follows:

-	**Funded students**	2,015
-	**Funded students** attending **schools** in population centres of less than 5,000	1,015
-	**Funded students** attending a **school** in a population centre of 2,030	600
-	Area	578 square miles
-	Sparsity rate	$549

Calculation:

Sparsity factor = 578 ÷ 2,015 = .287

Sparsity funding = (.287 - .25) X 1,015 X $549
= $20,618

PLUS

Sparsity funding = (.287 - .25) X 600 X ($549 - (2,030 - 2,000))
= $11,522

Total Funding = $20,618 + $11,522 = $32,140

In this example, the jurisdiction receives the total funding under the original formula, as well as additional funding at a reduced rate for the school in the population centre over the population threshold.

6. A **school jurisdiction** serving more than 6,000 students, of which more than 25 per cent but less than 50 per cent are **funded students** attending schools in population centres of less than 2,000, will receive sparsity funding if its sparsity factor, determined by dividing the area of the **school jurisdiction** by the number of **funded students**, is greater than 0.07.

CONDITIONS (CONTD.)

Sparsity funding for a **school jurisdiction** serving more than 6,000 students of which 31 per cent are rural students is calculated as follows:

- **Funded students** 13,662
- **Funded students** attending schools in population centres of less than 2,000 4,239
- Area 1,934 square miles

Calculation:

Sparsity factor = 1,934 ÷ 13,662 = 0.142

Sparsity funding = (0.142 - 0.07) X 4,239 X $549
= $167,559

7. A **school jurisdiction** will receive sparsity funding for a maximum sparsity factor of 3.0.

8. To recognize the dispersion of students for a francophone authority, the area of each francophone education region will be determined by assigning a 302 square mile attendance area for each school it operates.

REQUIREMENTS

1. A **school jurisdiction** that receives sparsity funding will provide adequate programs for students in smaller **schools**.

2. A **school jurisdiction** is not required to apply for sparsity funding; Alberta Learning determines a **school jurisdiction's** eligible funding using the geographical area and student enrolment information for the **school jurisdiction**.

DISTANCE

PURPOSE

Funding for distance assists **school jurisdictions** located outside of urban centres to meet the learner expectations of students in **schools** with above average instruction costs.

CONDITIONS

1. The central administration office of a **school jurisdiction** is located at least 40 kilometres from one of the following urban centres: Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, or Red Deer.

2. Funding is provided to **school jurisdictions** for the distance between the central administration office and the **schools** they serve.

3. The following school categories are excluded from the school distance calculation portion of the formula: Hutterite Colonies, Home Education sites, and **institutions**. Outreach students are also excluded from the school distance portion of the school distance calculation.

REQUIREMENTS

1. A **school jurisdiction** is not required to apply for distance funding; Alberta Learning determines a **school jurisdiction's** eligible funding using distance and student enrolment information.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. The higher than average living costs recognized for the City of Fort McMurray are addressed using a distance rate for **school jurisdictions** in Fort McMurray that is three times the distance rate set by Alberta Learning.

2. The location of a **school jurisdiction's** central administration office is that reported to the Governance and Program Delivery Branch and included in the current Alberta School Jurisdiction List.

3. Distance is measured from the location of a **school jurisdiction's** central administration office to the centre of the nearest of Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge or Medicine Hat using the most direct route via primary **highway** as shown on the current Travel Alberta Road Map. If the **school jurisdiction's** central administration office is not located on a primary **highway**, then the shortest route on a secondary road is used.

4. Distance funding is paid for any kilometres after the first 40 kilometres between a **school jurisdiction's** central administration office and the closest of the urban centres listed. In addition, distance funding is calculated for each **school** whose distance between their central administration office and the **school** is more than 25 kilometres. Distance is measured from the location of a **school jurisdiction's**

CONSIDERATIONS (CONTD.)

central administration office to each **school** by the most direct route on a travelled road or **highway**.

5. The following formula is used to calculate distance funding for **school jurisdictions**:

Distance Funding	=	(Distance - 40) jurisdiction central office to urban centre	X	Number of funded students	X	School Jurisdiction Distance rate
		+				
		(Distance - 25) jurisdiction central office to school	X	Number of funded students	X	School Distance rate

Using this formula, distance funding for a sample **school jurisdiction** would be calculated as follows:

Distance between **school jurisdiction,** central office and urban centre	200	km
School jurisdiction funded students	2,100	
School jurisdiction distance rate	$ .43	
Distance between **school jurisdiction,** central office and **school**	99.4	km
Funded students at the **school**	100	
School distance rate	$ .30	

Calculation

Distance Funding From Central Office

= (200 - 40) X 2,100 X $ .43
= 160 X 2,100 X $ .43
= $144,480

Distance Funding For Each **School**

= (99.4 - 25) X 100 X $ .30
= 74.4 X 100 X $ .30
= $2,232

Total Distance Funding

Distance from Central Office =	$144,480
Distance from Each **School** =	$ 2,232
Total	$146,712