

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 percent but less than 50 percent, 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:

$$\text{Sparsity Funding} = (\text{Sparsity factor} - 0.25) \times \text{number of funded students in population centres less than 2,000} \times \text{Sparsity rate}$$

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

3. 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:

$$\text{Sparsity factor} = 3,798 \div 1,980 = 1.918$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sparsity funding} &= (1.918 - .25) \times 1,015 \times \$549 \\ &= \$929,468 \end{aligned}$$

4. 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} | 2,052 |
| | School B 1,092} | |
| - | Area | 3,798 square miles |
| - | Sparsity rate | \$549 |

Calculation:

$$\text{Sparsity factor} = 3,798 \div 3,467 = 1.095$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sparsity funding} &= (1.095 - .25) \times 2,052 \times \$549 \\ &= \$951,933 \end{aligned}$$

5. 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 sparsity 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 |

Calculation:

$$\text{Sparsity factor} = 1,825 \div 2,089 = .874$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sparsity funding} &= (.874 - .25) \times 1,275 \times (\$549 - (2,089 - 2,000)) \\ &= \$365,976 \end{aligned}$$

6. 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:

$$\text{Sparsity factor} = 578 \div 2,015 = .287$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sparsity funding} &= (.287 - .25) \times 1,015 \times \$549 \\ &= \$20,618 \end{aligned}$$

PLUS

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sparsity funding} &= (.287 - .25) \times 600 \times (\$549 - (2,030 - 2,000)) \\ &= \$11,522 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Total Funding} = \$20,618 + \$11,522 = \$32,140$$

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.

7. A **school jurisdiction** serving more than 6,000 students, of which more than 25 percent but less than 50 percent 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.

Sparsity funding for a **school jurisdiction** serving more than 6,000 students of which 31 percent 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:

$$\text{Sparsity factor} = 1,934 \div 13,662 = 0.142$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sparsity funding} &= (0.142 - 0.07) \times 4,239 \times \$549 \\ &= \$167,559 \end{aligned}$$

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: Outreach schools/programs, Hutterite Colony schools, Home Education programs, and **institutions**.

Revised

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**

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**:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Distance Funding} &= (\text{Distance} - 40) \times \text{Number of} \times \text{School Jurisdiction} \\ &\quad \text{jurisdiction central} \quad \text{funded} \quad \text{Distance rate} \\ &\quad \text{office to urban} \quad \text{students} \\ &\quad \text{centre} \\ &+ \\ &\quad (\text{Distance} - 25) \times \text{Number of} \times \text{School Distance} \\ &\quad \text{jurisdiction central} \quad \text{funded} \quad \text{rate} \\ &\quad \text{office to school} \quad \text{students} \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} &= (200 - 40) \times 2,100 \times \$.43 \\ &= 160 \times 2,100 \times \$.43 \\ &= \$144,480 \end{aligned}$$

Distance Funding For Each **School**

$$\begin{aligned} &= (99.4 - 25) \times 100 \times \$.30 \\ &= 74.4 \times 100 \times \$.30 \\ &= \$2,232 \end{aligned}$$

Total Distance Funding

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Distance from Central Office = | \$144,480 |
| Distance from Each School = | <u>\$ 2,232</u> |
| Total | \$146,712 |