



Backgrounder: New funding to support the reopening of schools during COVID-19

School reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year required the following public health measures:

- Physical distancing
- Engineering controls
- Administrative controls
- Infection prevention and control
- Personal protective equipment / non-medical masks

Schools and education bodies identified that additional funding was needed to support:

- Custodial salaries
- Teaching salaries
- Substitute teachers
- Materials and supplies
- Technology support for remote learning

Custodial Salaries

All locations require additional positions in order to meet cleaning and sanitation requirements. A total of **\$ 4,138,000** will be provided for additional custodial salaries.

Teaching Salaries

A number of locations require additional teaching positions in order to maintain high school physical distancing requirements. ECE worked with education bodies to identify which schools require additional teaching positions in order to maximize the number of students who are able to attend school full time. Education bodies will be provided with additional teaching positions for the 2020-21 school year where schools are unable to bring all students back to school in person on a full-time basis. A total of **\$ 2,788,000** will be provided for additional teaching salaries.

Casual (Substitute Teaching & Custodial Replacement) Salaries

A 100% increase in substitute teaching and custodial replacement costs is anticipated as necessary to respond to increased sick leave and self-isolation.

- Teachers and custodians who leave the NWT for medical or other urgent travel will need to self-isolate on their return.
- Sick staff with what might be normally considered mild symptoms will be required to stay home.
- Staff displaying any COVID-like symptoms (in the midst of a regular cold and flu season) will require self-isolation until their testing results are returned.
- Some teachers may refuse to attend work given a wide variety of possible scenarios involving co-workers or students.

The total cost of these adjustments is expected to be **\$1,503,274**.

Materials and Supplies

A total of **\$1,529,344** will be provided for additional material expenses, including:

- Additional paper and copier supplies for take home packages
- Custodial cleaning supplies
- Personal Protective Equipment acquisition and replacement
- Temporary barriers

Technology

A total of **\$2,412,300** in technology funding is being provided for the purchase of 1,641 Chromebooks and Turbo Sticks to enable remote study by students participating in blended or distance learning. 750 of these units will be kept in a reserve to accommodate the potential for future school closures made necessary by community spread of COVID-19, and for students whose individual complex needs may require remote learning.