



Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
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Chair: Nicole Duncan Vice-Chair: Karin Kwan
Trustees: Natalie Baillaut, Angela Carmichael, Mavis David,
Derek Gagnon, Emily Mahbobi, Diane McNally, Rob Paynter

March 10, 2023

BY E-MAIL:

Honourable Rachna Singh
Minister of Education and Child Care
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
Room 346 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

selina.robinson.MLA@leg.bc.ca

ATTENTION: Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care
Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education
and Future Skills

Dear Minister Singh and Minister Robinson:

RE: Education Assistant Standards of Practice

On 30 January 2023, the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) unanimously passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the Province on behalf of the Board expressing support for an EA Standards of Practice (as stated in the letter from VCPAC on December 5, 2022).

Education Assistants play a critical role in supporting all students. However, we must acknowledge that Education Assistants provide essential supports to students with disabilities, medically fragile students and students with diverse learning needs. Education Assistants bring considerable skills and expertise to their work. It is incumbent on us all to honor and respect the skills and experience Education Assistants bring and to acknowledge that these supports are essential to meeting our collective commitment to provide equitable, inclusive and accessible learning environments for all students.

You will be aware of the work of coalition members taking part in the EA Standards of Practice Working Group (<https://eastandardsbcc.ca>). This Working Group and many other Boards of Education have been calling on the BC Government to work with stakeholders to create provincially mandated standards of practice for Education Assistants. On behalf of the Board of Education SD61 (Greater Victoria), I write to ask you to work collaboratively with stakeholders

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including Education Assistants to create provincially mandated Standards of Practice for Education Assistants.

This is priority work. We know that Education Assistants are critical to supporting the many diverse learning and social emotional needs of students. Like many school districts in our Province, it has become increasingly difficult to recruit and to retain qualified Education Assistants. As a result, we are seeing chronic Education Assistant staffing shortages resulting in school staff scrambling to find alternate supports and, in some cases, students are going without necessary Education Assistant support.

We are confident that by working together in partnership we can finally see an Education Assistant Standards of Practice implemented in our Province.

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Duncan
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education, School District No. 61
Deb Whitten, Superintendent, School District No. 61
Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 61
Jane Massy, President, CUPE Local 947 (cupe947@telus.net)
Tracy Humphreys, President, VCPAC (president@vcpac.ca)
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