



## School District No.59 (Peace River South)

September 8, 2020

Peace River Regional District Board  
PO Box 810  
Dawson Creek, BC  
V1G 4H8

Re: SD59 Rural Swim Grant Allocation

Dear Board Members of the Board;

As you are aware, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (PRS) has been operating under a provincial framework specific to the COVID-19 pandemic and is currently following the guidelines outlined in Stage 2 of BC's Education Restart Plan. Stage 2 continues to have specific protocols and operational guidelines that all school districts must follow which affects the activities that students can participate in. Unfortunately, at this time, due to the protocols in place at the local swimming pools, the district will not be allowing schools to use any pool facilities and therefore will not be incurring any travel costs specific to swimming lessons.

In June 2018, the Peace River Regional District Board approved a motion for a multi-year grant to assist with transportation costs specifically for students to participate in the Rural Learn to Swim program. We are currently in the last year of this three-year grant commitment; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the suspension of in-classroom instruction in the Spring of 2020 and now the restrictions in place to use the pool facilities as this new school year begins, the schools will be unable to use the funds allocated to them from the 2020 grant.

The Board of Education of School District No.59 is requesting that the Peace River Regional District Board allow alternate use of the swim grant to be used towards transportation costs for rural students to participate in other recreational or cultural activities that meet the operational guidelines of the district while following the Stage 2 protocols. The health and safety of students and staff are a priority of the district while continuing to provide meaningful education; therefore, it is important to continue to seek alternative activities that enhances a student's educational program.

If approved, the district would encourage schools to use the grant funds by December 2020 with the intention of applying for another three-year grant starting in 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Panoulas, Secretary Treasurer, at 250-782-8571 or email [mpanoulas@sd59.bc.ca](mailto:mpanoulas@sd59.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

Chad Anderson  
SD59 Board Chair

