

budget 2022-2023

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 9:14 AM
To: budget 2022-2023
Subject: Budget Considerations for Twice Exceptional Students with Dyslexia

When deciding on how best to address the Vancouver School Board's structural deficit in the 2022-2023 budget District Staff and Trustees at the Vancouver School Board (VSB) must be fully conscious of the VSB obligation to meet the special learning needs of *twice exceptional (2e) dyslexic students* attending VSB schools. Trustees and Staff of the VSB may benefit from reviewing the 2012 case of *Moore vs British Columbia* (<https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/12680/1/document.do>) and the *Right to Read inquiry report* published by the Ontario Human Rights Commission in February 2022 (<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report>). The former documents speak to the legal and moral responsibility of a School District to ensure that all students are taught in a manner which enables them to maximize their potential in school and in life. Further to, the British Columbia *School Act* states the following:

WHEREAS it is the goal of a democratic society to ensure that all its members receive an education that enables them to become literate, personally fulfilled and publicly useful, thereby increasing the strength and contributions to the health and stability of that society;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable all learners to become literate, to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy;^[1]

As it is pointed out in the case of *Moore vs British Columbia*, “adequate special education...is not a dispensable luxury”.^[2]

The authors of this document are the parents of a *2e student with dyslexia* attending school in a public VSB secondary school. As a parents of a *2e student with gifted visual spatial talents* and specific challenges associated with *dyslexia* (i.e., *phonological processing deficits*), the authors can testify to the fact that in public secondary schools in Vancouver there is a concerning lack of budgeting, staffing, training, policies, protocols, assessments, and reporting needed to adequately identify and address the needs of *2e students*. The lack of attention paid to *2e students with dyslexia* is deeply concerning. Without purposeful opportunities to develop their strengths and timely instruction to enable learning in their areas of weakness, these uniquely talented students are at considerable risk of leaving school undereducated with a host of chronic mental health issues. Since the VSB strives for equitable learning opportunities for all students, they must pause and consider how the proposed budget will ensure that the learning needs of all *2e students with dyslexia* will be met.

^[1] British Columbia Ministry of Education. (2022) *School Act*. From <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/legislation-policy/legislation/schoollaw/revisedstatutescontents.pdf>

^[2] Supreme Court of Canada. (2012). *Moore v. British Columbia (Education)*. SCC 61, [2012] 3 S.C.R. 360. From <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/12680/index.do>