



# Memorandum

**Date:** May 10, 2024  
**To:** Finance and Audit Committee  
**From:** Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
**Prepared by:** Alan Lalonde, Assistant Superintendent

**Information Item: CommunityLINK Allocations – 2024/2025**

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## 1.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

None.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

CommunityLINK (learning includes nutrition and knowledge) will provide \$59.9 million in funding next year to all sixty school districts in the province to support vulnerable students in academic achievement and social functioning. The funding helps school districts provide services such as breakfast, lunch and snack programs, academic support, counselling, mental health supports, and after school programs for at-risk children and youth. CommunityLINK defines “vulnerable students” as those who may be at risk in terms of academic achievement and social functioning. These students primarily come from less affluent socio-economic backgrounds.

Historically, the Central Okanagan School District has received just over \$1.2 million from this fund each year (*Appendix A*). In early May 2024, \$1,293,116 was confirmed for the 2024/2025 school year. Consistent with the prior year, the District has focused the CommunityLINK program funding for the 2024/2025 year to support mental health initiatives including group counselling for drug & alcohol and anger management, and mental health support for all schools. The District has also been able to impact students through elementary, middle, and secondary focused mental health initiatives and the Young Parent program located at École Kelowna Secondary School.

## 3.0 STAFF COMMENTS

It is recommended that the District:

- a) Continues to support our school-based Mental Health Clinicians in our elementary, middle and secondary schools.
- b) Maintains the support for District programs (Young Parent program).

#### **4.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

The recommended allocation of funds meets CommunityLINK expenditure guidelines. It also supports the District's vision, purpose and cultural value statements. The programs provide an excellent range of services to help support our most vulnerable students and are a valuable supplement to our operating funding.

#### **5.0 NEXT STEP**

The Assistant Superintendent will continue to work alongside the District Principal – Learning Support Services, District Social Emotional Learning team and Health Promoting Schools teachers to plan a series of networking and learning sessions for the 2024/2025 school year.

#### **6.0 APPENDIX**

A. CommunityLINK Allocations 2024/2025