

Ministries of Health and Education

Promoting Healthy Eating and Physical Activity in K-12: An Independent Audit Released [05/18]

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Initial PAC Meeting- 19/07/18

Rec. #	OAG Recommendations	Action Planned	Target Date	Assessment of Progress by Entity ¹	Action Taken ²
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¹The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) will request an update (i.e Assessment of Progress and Actions Taken column completed) on a yearly basis from the audited organization until all recommendations are fully implemented or otherwise addressed to the satisfaction of the PAC.

² This action plan and their subsequent updates have not been audited by the OAG. However, at a future date that Office may undertake work to determine whether the entity has accurately represented their progress in addressing the recommendations. The results of that work will be reported in a separate report prepared by the OAG.

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Detailed Action Plan - Prepared for the Select Standing Committee of Public Accounts

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1.	That the Ministries of Health and Education work together with their delivery partners to integrate the promotion of healthy eating and physical activity with other student health initiatives by establishing shared goals, objectives, targets and performance measures; and communicate this direction to health authorities and school districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Health and Education to articulate shared commitments, roles and responsibilities relevant to recommendations of the audit - Establish process for annual direction setting exercise for student health involving senior decision making tables of both sectors - Co-develop shared direction (including goals, objectives, targets and performance measures) on student health priorities, and disseminate via communication channels to key delivery partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Include in annual expectation letter for health authorities to support school districts in addressing shared health and wellbeing priorities o Ministry of Education will use existing communication channels to provide direction related to student health to school districts - As existing contracts/funding agreements for delivery of student health-related services come to term, review to ensure they address shared priorities of both sectors, and revise as required 	<p>July 2018</p> <p>March 2019</p> <p>June 2019</p> <p>April 2020</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p> <p>No action taken <i>To follow endorsement of MOU</i></p> <p>No action taken <i>To follow endorsement of MOU</i></p> <p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and is currently in the final review and approval stage with senior Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education leadership.</p> <p>Coinciding with the conclusion of the current funding agreement for delivery of Action Schools! BC, the program is being reviewed in order to align its approach and scope with shared health priorities of both sectors.</p>

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2.	That the Ministries of Health and Education work together with their delivery partners to revise the <i>School Meal and School Nutrition Program Handbook</i> according to current nutritional standards.	<p><i>Health Canada will be releasing updated national dietary policy by late Fall 2018, with updated nutritional standards (based on a daily pattern of eating) released by Spring 2019. To ensure policy and resources are up-to-date and current, actions will follow the release of updated nutritional standards identified by Health Canada.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with delivery partners to update the <i>Guidelines for Food & Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools</i> (policy) and the related <i>School Meal and School Nutrition Program Handbook</i> (resource) according to current nutritional standards 	September 2020	No action taken <i>To follow release of updated nutritional standards from Health Canada.</i>	
3.	That the Ministries of Health and Education work together with their delivery partners to develop healthy eating and physical activity initiatives that maximize access for vulnerable students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Require delivery partners to ensure existing school-based initiatives prioritize access for vulnerable students - For future program development, ensure potential barriers to access for vulnerable students are identified and addressed prior to implementation 	April 2019 September 2020	Partially implemented Partially implemented	The Healthy Schools BC granting process has been updated to address application barriers and to prioritize access for First Nations schools. Action Schools! BC is currently under review. Part of this process will surface and address barriers to access for school districts and schools that support vulnerable students in advance of a revised model being rolled out.
4.	That the Ministry of Health work with its delivery partners to measure the effectiveness of healthy eating and physical activity initiatives, in terms of achieving increased healthy eating and physical activity and better health outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce new requirement in funding agreements to ensure that program/intervention evaluation occurs at minimum every three years following implementation, and includes measurement of impact on health outcomes 	April 2019	Partially implemented	Farm to School BC is currently being evaluated (August 2018 – December 2019) to determine its impact on evidence-based healthy eating indicators and better health outcomes.

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5.	That the Ministries of Health and Education work together with their delivery partners to support school districts and schools in meeting nutritional guidelines when providing meals (breakfast, lunch and/or snacks) in schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with delivery partners to evaluate school food environment to identify supports needed by school districts and schools - Identify and update tools and resources to support schools in meeting nutritional guidelines, including updating the <i>School Meal and School Nutrition Program Handbook</i> (identified in recommendation 2) - Work with delivery partners to review and update available supports at HealthLink BC (including tele-health and brand name food list) to ensure alignment with revised nutritional guidelines when providing meals in schools 	<p>August 2019</p> <p>September 2020</p> <p>September 2020</p> <p><i>Including actions identified under Recommendation 2, these target dates are dependent upon release of updated nutritional guidance from Health Canada. Any delays from Health Canada will impact these dates.</i></p>	<p>No action taken <i>School Food Environment Evaluation scheduled for 2018-2019 school year.</i></p> <p>No action taken <i>To follow school food environment evaluation.</i></p> <p>No action taken <i>To follow school food environment evaluation.</i></p>	

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6.	That the Ministry of Education works with school districts to implement a consistent method for estimating the number of vulnerable students needing access to programs currently funded through CommunityLINK.	<p><i>The Ministry of Education is currently conducting a review to find alternate ways of providing equitable and predictable funding to boards of education. A new funding model will support vulnerable students, including children in care, children with special needs and Indigenous students, as well provide support to rural and remote school districts, and school districts with fast-growing student populations. CommunityLINK funding is within the scope of the funding model review.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report to Minister of Education with recommendations for new funding allocation model - Develop the new funding model; and implementation and transition materials - New operating grant manual and tables for 2019/20 school year; transition information for stakeholders; and monitoring and evaluation plan for Ministry 	<p>July 31, 2018</p> <p>February 1, 2019</p> <p>March 15, 2019</p>	Alternate action taken	<p><i>The K to 12 education system includes funding to school districts to meet the needs of all students through a model of inclusive education that includes the CommunityLINK program.</i></p> <p>The Ministry of Education has completed initial fact-finding and research, gathered stakeholder opinions and perspectives on the current state of the funding model and identified key concerns. The Independent Panel for the Funding Model Review used this discussion paper as a conversation starter during their regional working sessions with Board Chairs, Superintendents and Secretary-Treasurers. The results of this engagement were summarised in a “What We Heard” paper, released to the sector in May 2018.</p>

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7.	That the Ministries of Health and Education work together with their delivery partners to identify and address barriers to the implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programs and policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building on actions identified in Recommendation 1, planning across all levels will identify implementation barriers, and will determine and apply corresponding approaches to mitigate these barriers for healthy eating and physical activity programs and policies 	September 2019	Partially Implemented	The Ministries have developed a Memorandum of Understanding that addresses collaboration in the context of working with partners.
8.	That the Ministries of Health and Education report publicly on shared performance measures that are consistent with key indicators for the physical health and well-being of children and youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with key partners (e.g. Provincial Health Officer) to validate shared performance measures as consistent with key indicators for the physical health and well-being of children and youth - Build on existing provincial tools (e.g. Student Learning Survey, Adolescent Health Survey) to collect data on shared performance measures - Integrated shared performance measures and reporting into Ministry guidance and strategic documents 	<p>June 2019</p> <p>April 2020</p> <p>April 2020</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p> <p>No action taken <i>To follow process to select and validate performance measures.</i></p> <p>No action taken <i>To follow process to select and validate performance measures.</i></p>	The Ministries are involved in processes to identify and gather established indicators of physical health and well-being of children and youth from credible sources. A select suite of these indicators will be proposed for validation as performance measures.

Prepared by: Ministries of Health and Education

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