



April 26, 2019

Ref: 209032

Tracey Humphreys, Founder and Chair
BCEdAccess Society
Email: bcedaccess@gmail.com

Dear Tracey Humphreys:

Thank you for your letter of March 18, 2019, regarding accessible school playgrounds.

The Ministry of Education's Playground Equipment Program (PEP) was launched in early 2018 with a \$5 million/year budget. Public school districts apply for funding from the PEP through their annual capital plan submissions. School districts have had the discretion to choose between either standard playground equipment or universally accessible playground equipment.

The Ministry is a strong supporter of inclusion and accessibility for all students. As the PEP is a relatively new program, it is constantly being evolved to better meet the needs of students and communities.

The Ministry recently updated the [Capital Plan Instructions](#), to school districts. The updates establish a requirement for all playground equipment systems to be universally accessible and include appropriate ground cover for fall protection and ease of mobility, effective the next round of approvals for the 2020/21 fiscal year.

If you require further information please contact Michael Nyikes, Director, Capital Programs and Policies Unit by email at Michael.Nyikes@gov.bc.ca.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rob Fleming
Minister

pc: Joel Palmer, Executive Director, Capital Management Branch
Michael Nyikes, Director, Capital Programs and Policies Unit