

Professional Guidelines for Schools During Public Emergencies

That the BCTF, pursuant to the recent EC Motion regarding a government Planning Committee, Leadership Priorities for 2020-21, Policies 9.B.01, 9.B.09, and Procedures 9.A.52, 9.A.54, 9.A.58, that the BCTF engage with members and locals on professional issues and priorities on issues related to COVID-19 for the purposes of developing a set of “Professional Guidelines for Schools” to support teaching and learning during COVID-19, and any future emergency or future disruptions to classroom education that:

1. Defends the integrity of public education during COVID-19,
2. Supports locals by providing guidance for schools based on our professional expertise and involving locals in the development of guidelines for schools during the pandemic,
3. Supports teachers’ professional autonomy by engaging with members on professional issues during COVID-19,
4. Applies existing BCTF policies, ethics, and priorities on professionalism to COVID-19 issues,
5. Provides schools with resources and recommended policies and practices for supporting student learning, and protecting the health and well-being of students at school, during COVID-19,
6. Safeguards and enhances programs that support equity-seeking students, including by protecting the rights of students who are marginalized and/or disabled,
7. Ensures that government responses to COVID-19 address systemic racism and advance racial justice and reconciliation, and
8. Bases educational policy and practice on the knowledge, expertise, and ethics of the teaching profession.