



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

News Release

Saskatoon Public Schools announces impact of Jordan's Principle funding shortfall

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Due to a significant shortfall in Jordan's Principle funding, Saskatoon Public Schools is being forced to end the contracts of approximately 80 temporary educational assistants. This action, which will take effect over the next two weeks, comes after the anticipated federal funds from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) were not received.

Jordan's Principle is a child-first legal rule in Canada ensuring First Nations children receive necessary government services without delay, regardless of jurisdictional disputes. Named after Jordan River Anderson, a Cree child from Norway House Cree Nation, the principle aims to prevent the kind of bureaucratic delays that affected Jordan's life.

From 2019 to 2024, Saskatoon Public Schools managed millions of dollars through Jordan's Principle, utilizing these funds for tutoring, psycho-educational assessments (comprehensive evaluations of the mental processes that govern academic, social, and personal achievement), and employing educational assistants to support First Nations students. Based on previous funding patterns, the school division proactively hired additional educational assistants to meet student needs. However, the absence of the expected funding has made it unsustainable to maintain these positions.

"This decision was not made lightly," says Charlene Scrimshaw, Deputy Director of Education for Saskatoon Public Schools. "The support provided by these educational assistants has been crucial for student success. We understand the significant impact this will have on our students, families and staff."

Despite these challenges, Saskatoon Public Schools remains committed to supporting all students. Teachers, administrators and support staff will continue to collaborate with families to meet student needs. The school division is steadfast in its advocacy for necessary funding and will explore all possible avenues to address this issue.

All families with Saskatoon Public Schools are being notified of this action today. Families directly affected by the removal of educational assistant support will be contacted by their respective schools prior to February 14, 2025.