



Hidden Valley School Council

HVSCouncil@gmail.com

June 17, 2025

To: Hon. Jeanie McLean, Minister of Education, Government of Yukon

Request for Explanation and Immediate Review of HVES Staffing and Support Reductions

The Hidden Valley School Council is seeking a formal explanation regarding recent staffing and support reductions at Hidden Valley Elementary School (HVES). These changes significantly impact the school's ability to serve its growing and diverse student population and appear to contradict both established staffing guidelines and common-sense planning.

These changes are not only difficult to understand—they feel short-sighted, harmful, and deeply disappointing for a school community that has worked incredibly hard to rebuild trust and stability in recent years. We've created programs and supports that allow all students to thrive—socially, emotionally, and academically. That progress is now at risk.

The Department's Staffing Allocation Handbook is intended to ensure equitable and transparent distribution of FTEs. However, HVES has been allocated fewer FTEs for 2025–26, based on an inaccurate projected enrollment of 180 students. Current figures from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics show a stable population and Aspen indicates an increase of students to 196. When this was brought to the superintendent's attention, we were told it would be reviewed in August. This is far too late to ensure continuity of support for our students. Compounding this issue, HVES's EA allocation was reduced from 15 to 11.7, despite both increasing enrollment and increased needs. Our staff has gone above and beyond to provide meaningful, effective support.

Most concerning, on the final day of the school year (June 13, 2025), the school was informed of the removal of an additional 1.0 FTE along with the involuntary transfer of an essential top-performing Learning Assistance Teacher. This staff member is a major cornerstone to our student's literacy success, and integral to our school community. Putting aside the audacity of an employer to force a transfer with no notice on the last day of work, this is extremely upsetting. Both decisions made without adequate notice, or consultation. That is not a responsible or respectful approach to staffing.

These late-stage decisions leave HVES with 6.8 fewer FTEs for more students and dismantle a successful neurodivergent program, disrupt literacy progress, and erode staff morale and community trust. This is especially disappointing given that HVES was awarded the Premier's Award for Excellence in our work supporting neurodiverse learners.

We urge the Department to:

1. Reconsider the inaccurate enrollment projections and Teacher and EA FTE allocations.
2. Reverse the involuntary transfer of the LAT.
3. Restore the 1.0 FTE necessary to maintain critical neurodivergent programming.

We understand that other schools also need support. But taking staff and resources from one school community to support another is not the answer. This is especially troubling given that HVES will likely regain an FTE in August under the Staffing Allocation Handbook, this only causes unnecessary disruption and hardship.

At the end of this week, Hidden Valley School Council will be informing families about the impact of these changes. We will be honest about what has been taken away: a significant EA allocation, teaching FTEs including a key educator, and the neurodiversity room. We will outline how that loss reflects a lack of support from the Department of Education for the 2025/26 school year.

Our students deserve consistent, adequate support. Our staff deserves respect. And our school deserves to be seen—not as a number in a formula, but as a thriving, committed community that has overcome a great deal. Hidden Valley should be recognized for its resilience and progress, not penalized for it.

We hope the Department of Education will seriously reconsider these decisions and work with us to restore the resources HVES needs to continue serving our students with excellence.

Sincerely,



On behalf of Hidden Valley School Council

c. Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition
Kate White, Leader of the Third Party
Scott Kent, Yukon Party caucus critic for Education
Brad Cathers, MLA Lake Labarge
Mary Cameron, Deputy Minister, Yukon Education