



May 28, 2025

Ref: 307770

Laura Kwong, Chair
District Parent Advisory Council
School District No. 40 (New Westminster)
Email: newwestpacchair@gmail.com

Nicky Dunlop, Past President
District Parent Advisory Council
School District No. 22 (Vernon)
Email: newwestpacchair@gmail.com

Dear Laura Kwong and Nicky Dunlop:

Thank you for your letter of March 7, 2025, addressed to the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, regarding inclusive systems and data use in British Columbia schools, and for advocating for inclusive, safe, and welcoming spaces in education. As Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Minister Beare.

Modernization of educational systems and platforms, like MyEducation BC (MyEdBC), is ongoing. As you are aware, MyEducation BC includes both Gender and Gender Identity fields. The Gender field is currently limited to 'male' and 'female' due to legacy system constraints. Legacy data systems in the Ministry of Education and Child Care are actively being modernized to adopt the Government of British Columbia [Gender and Sex Data Standard](#) to better support students in expressing their gender identity. I am pleased to highlight that once all legacy systems are updated, MyEducation BC's gender field will also be updated to include additional values. I can share that this work is close to completion.

I can also note that the Gender Identity field is an optional, school district-owned field and may not be a widely known feature. Districts can populate this field by adding gender identity values to the District Gender Identity Reference Table, which schools manage according to their district policies. If you or other school districts are unaware of this feature, I recommend discussing it with the District's Service Management Council or Level One support person responsible for MyEducation BC. If the District has any questions about the configuration of the Gender Identity fields, they can reach out to the MyEducation BC team by email at myedbc@gov.bc.ca.

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Thank you for also raising important considerations regarding the collection, storage, and use of gender data in MyEducation BC. The Ministry is committed to ensuring that all student data, including gender-related information, is handled with the highest level of privacy, security, and respect for student identity. MyEducation BC operates under stringent privacy and security protocols and fully complies with BC's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA). To minimize the risk of unauthorized access or misuse of sensitive information, access to MyEducation BC is controlled by role-based security. This ensures that only authorized users with a legitimate purpose—such as teachers, school administrators, or district staff—can view or edit the necessary data. The Ministry also has [Guidelines for the Acceptable Use of Names, Date of Birth and Sex \(Gender\)](#), which the [MyEducation BC Standards Manual](#) complies with. Students and families can contact their school district to update gender identity information as needed.

Again, thank you for your dedication to ensuring that BC schools remain caring and inclusive spaces for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kaye Krishna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kaye Krishna
Deputy Minister