

June 30, 2021

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister of Education

Room 306 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via email to: [EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister of Education,

We are a nonprofit organization that extends support to the British Columbia gifted community in navigating the unique developmental journey of gifted children through advocacy, education and collaboration.

We understand that the Vancouver School Board (the "VSB") has made a decision to cancel math and science honours classes, after having already cancelled English honours classes. We find this trend very concerning and in fact believe it is in direct contradiction to Ministry of Education official policy as well as in contradiction with a Ministerial Order.

As you may be aware, this recent decision by the VSB has attracted negative coverage in national news media including in the Globe and Mail on June 16, 2021 and in the National Post, along with negative coverage in provincial media.

Attached please find our position paper on the harmful impact of these decisions to cancel honours classes, as well as the continuing impact of the lack of programming in the Province for special needs students with a gifted designation. This position paper was written in response to the coverage of the VSB decision on June 16, 2021 by the Globe and Mail.

We look forward to hearing your response and would welcome any dialogue with your Ministry regarding the topics we cover in the attached position paper.

Kind regards,  
Lena Normén-Younger on behalf of the GCABC Board