

South Okanagan Similkameen Teachers' Union

School Begins!

Please welcome over 20 new teachers to the local / district. Many completed the orientation day Friday, Sept 1st (They will receive a day in-lieu for participating) Salary grid updates are coming. Preliminary numbers are in line with projections. Hope you have had an enjoyable summer.



Is there a teacher shortage in SD53?

Failure to Fill – TTOC Shortages 2-year Comparison

School Year 2021-2022	259.217 FTE unfilled
School Year 2022-2023	276.143 FTE unfilled

The trend is not good; we continue to see an increase unfilled TTOC positions every year.

Over the summer, there were only a couple of unfilled teaching jobs; this has not changed much. But every year, we hire many TTOCs throughout the year yet we find ourselves short. Today, we have 60 TTOCs on the list; but remember some already have portions of positions and others only work specific sites or times. **Anytime there are positions unfilled, it equals a teacher shortage.**

Teacher Benefit Improvements



The BCTF reached agreement with BCPSEA on further improvements to the provincial Extended Health Benefits (EHB) plan. If you recall, \$1.5 million of funding was allocated during provincial bargaining for improvements beginning on July 1, 2023, and a further \$2.0 million for improvements that will begin on July 1, 2024.

These improvements are based on the priorities passed at the BCTF Bargaining Conference, held prior to the opening of provincial bargaining in 2022.

Effective July 1, 2023

Dual Dental	Restriction removed in SD 36 and SD 57
HPV vaccine	Covered
Vision care limit	Increased to \$600
Naturopath limit	Increased to \$1000

Effective July 1, 2024

Shingles vaccines	Covered
Vision care limit	Increased to \$650
Counselling services limit	Increased to \$1500



Unused remedy minutes were converted to a dollar amount of \$54,176 and transferred to the union over the summer. Remedy minutes that were used totalled \$65,000.

The SOSTU Executive & Pro-D committee will decide in the fall what to do with this amount. In past years, we have included some of this amount in the yearly Pro-D fall dispersal to contract teachers. You will hear more about that from your Staff / Pro-D rep.