

Ministry of Education

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Ontario

2007:B11

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

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DATE: September 7, 2007

SUBJECT: **2007-08 Funding in addition to Grants for Student Needs**

We are writing to you with an update to Memorandum B6 (dated June 1, 2007), in which the ministry allocated \$191.4 million in program funding to school boards and school authorities for 2007-08. This program funding was in addition to the \$18.3 billion in Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding that was announced in March, 2007.

Memorandum B6 allocated \$88.5 million of the \$191.4 million to individual boards and school authorities, leaving \$102.9 million unallocated. After taking into consideration demand, eligibility and financial feasibility, it was decided to increase program funding by \$15.6 million bringing the total for 2007-08 to \$207.0 million. This increase is in addition to the \$182 million in supplementary GSN funding announced earlier in August 2007 (Memorandum B9).

The table below provides a summary on the current status of the 2007-08 program funding allocations by initiative.

Initiatives in \$M*	Funding Allocation (Memorandum B6)	Funding Allocation (Memorandum B11)	Remaining Funding	Total Funding to School Boards
Aboriginal Education	0.9	0.8	3.2	5.0
Capacity Building			3.5	3.5
Character Development			1.0	1.0
Curriculum Learning to 18 (French boards)		0.6		0.6
Daily Physical Activity			1.4	1.4
English Language Learners			0.5	0.5
Equity of Outcomes			5.0	5.0
Formal Dispute Resolution			0.3	0.3
Healthy Schools			1.5	1.5
Lighthouse Projects		6.8	0.2	7.0
Literacy 7-12			0.3	0.3
Managing Information for Student Achievement	21.6			21.6
Mathematics	0.1	0.7		0.8
New Teacher Induction Program & Report Cards	0.1		15.0	15.1
Official Languages in Education	22.6	1.4	0.3	24.2
Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership	33.1			33.1
Parent Engagement	3.1		1.0	4.1
Principal - Role & Leadership	0.8		2.4	3.2
Provincial Skills Certificate			0.3	0.3
Reporting Entity Project Funding	5.7			5.7
Safe Schools		33.5		33.5
Schools on the Move		0.7	0.3	1.0
Specialist High Skill Major		8.7	0.1	8.8
Strict Discipline		2.4	0.1	2.5
Supports for Boys' Literacy	0.4			0.4
The School Effectiveness Framework			7.0	7.0
Tutors in the Classroom		1.4	0.6	2.0
<i>New initiatives (not included in Memorandum B6)</i>				
Autism Supports and Training		4.0	1.1	5.1
E-Learning			0.7	0.7
Ontario Software Acquisition Program		0.2		0.2
Parent and Family Literacy Centres		5.5	0.5	6.0
Toronto Summer Programs			4.0	4.0
Green Schools			1.8	1.8
TOTAL	88.5	66.6	52.0	207.0

***Note**

- Does not include initiative funding to third parties on behalf of school boards; for example, funding to the Council of Ontario Directors of Education regarding Dual Credits (\$7.3 million).

Program Funding Allocations to School Boards

The current memo is allocating \$66.6 million of the unallocated funding on a board-by-board basis, to further support improving student achievement (see Appendix A). The remaining \$52.0 million will be allocated based on formal board applications or upon receipt of specific board data. Further communication will follow on the allocation of remaining funding.

Key programs that are part of the newly-allocated funding include:

1. Safe Schools

To ensure students have safe and positive learning environments, the Ontario government has a comprehensive Safe Schools strategy. In June 2007, the government passed amendments to the safe schools provisions in the Education Act that more effectively combine discipline with opportunities for students to continue their education. The safe schools provisions of the Act will come into effect February 1, 2008.

To support the strategy, the government has allocated funding for the Safe School initiative, including:

- \$10.5 million annually to fund 170 psychologists, social workers, child and youth workers, attendance counsellors and others.
- \$23 million annually for programs and supports to address inappropriate behaviour and programs for all expelled students and students serving long-term suspensions.

In this memo, \$33.5 million is allocated by board.

2. Tutors in the Classroom

Research shows that tutoring is a powerful strategy for helping learners. Funds are being provided to assist boards in hiring post secondary students enrolled in Ontario universities and colleges to work as tutors in elementary classrooms in order to strengthen literacy and numeracy. Of the total \$2.0 million, \$1.4 million is allocated by board in this memo.

3. **Specialist High Skills Majors**

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) initiative, announced in December 2005, is part of the Student Success Strategy's third-phase initiatives, which focus on supporting success for all students. SHSM is a ministry-approved specialized program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements for their secondary school diploma (OSSD) and assists in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace. This program enables students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge, which makes the learning environment more engaging and focuses students on graduation and preparing to pursue their chosen postsecondary destination.

The ministry-approved framework for the SHSM includes the following components:

- a required bundle of 8 - 12 Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits for each of the four postsecondary destinations (workplace, college, university, and apprenticeship training);
- sector-recognized certifications and training;
- experiential learning within the sector;
- "reach ahead" experiences in the area of the student's postsecondary destination of choice; and,
- the development of Essential Skills and work habits using the Ontario Skills Passport.

In 2006-07 SHSM programs were launched in 27 school boards in the following sectors: Construction, Manufacturing, Hospitality and Tourism, Arts and Culture, and in the Primary Industries including Forestry, Mining, Agriculture and Landscaping.

In 2007-08 SHSM programs have expanded to 67 school boards in the above sectors as well as in the following new economic sectors: Transportation, Health and Wellness, Environment and Business.

Of the total \$8.8 million, \$8.7 million is allocated by board in this memo.

4. **Lighthouse Projects**

Lighthouse projects support students' success through innovative programs that help students accumulate credits, develop pathways to college, university, apprenticeship and the workplace, and encourage youth who have left school to return.

For this fiscal year 2007-08, the total amount of funding for Lighthouse Projects is \$7.0 million, with \$6.8 million allocated by board in this memo. While the Student

Success initiative continues to promote the improvement of student achievement for all students, research has indicated that certain groups of students require additional support in order to achieve success. Therefore, the focus of Lighthouse funding for 2007-08 will be to support programs for groups of students where there has been a documented gap between their achievement and that of the overall student population.

New this year, boards will be considered for projects that provide supports to recognized groups of students in grades 7 to 12 who have been determined to be at-risk. Projects may include a combination of mentoring, intervention programs like credit rescue, developmental pathways, counselling, credit recovery, return to school, and/or other supports that improve the student achievement for identified groups such as:

- 16 and 17 year old youth who have withdrawn from high school for at least one semester
- 16 and 17 year old students who have withdrawn from parental control and obtained their own right to attend school where they are living
- Aboriginal students
- Boys (focus on literacy)
- Crown wards
- English Language Learners
- Students who experience difficulty in school due to mental health issues, conflict with the law, or substance abuse
- Students with special education needs
- Other groups of students who have been determined by specific boards to be at-risk

Of the total \$7.0 million, \$6.8 million is allocated by board in this memo.

5. Autism Supports and Training

School boards have developed successful practices in providing special education programs and services to an increased number of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The Ministry of Education released Policy and Program Memorandum (PPM) 140 entitled “Incorporating Methods of Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) into Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)”. Currently, the ministry is providing extensive staff training over the summer to support school boards in the successful implementation of the PPM on ABA.

To support sustainability of the ministry-funded training, we need to enhance institutional capacity of school boards to deliver ABA methods in the classroom, improve information sharing opportunities and create opportunities for hands-on skills-based training of all teachers and other educators working with students with

ASD. To accomplish this goal, the ministry is allocating funding to all school boards and school authorities to allow their relevant staff to access these skills-based training opportunities. The funding will cover the costs associated with the release time of staff to participate in these skills-based training opportunities.

This funding will support hands-on practical training modules on ABA methods, with increasing skill development to implement ABA in the classroom, targeting school based teams, including teachers and other educators working with students with ASD.

Of the total \$5.1 million, \$4.0 million is allocated by board in this memo.

6. Aboriginal Education

Ontario's Aboriginal Education Strategy will help more First Nations, Métis and Inuit students achieve their full potential. The strategy includes initiatives that support learning and achievement for Aboriginal students. It will also help raise awareness about First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures, histories and perspectives in schools.

This funding will be directed toward continued support to boards for the development of policies for voluntary, confidential Aboriginal student self-identification, as well as for projects to support the implementation of the framework, with the focus on improved achievement for Aboriginal students, in particular for student mentorship, regional symposia, transition and community outreach. In addition to the \$0.9 million that has been allocated to boards in Memorandum B6, \$0.8 million is being allocated to the boards in this memo for Framework Implementation and Student Self-Identification.

7. Official Languages in Education (OLE)

The Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction (2005-06 to 2008-09) provides Ontario with funding to support Official Languages in Education at the elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels.

Specific projects associated with this funding have already been approved by the ministry in the past few months. In addition to \$22.6 million funding already allocated in Memorandum B6, \$1.4 million is being allocated to specific boards in this memo.

8. Parent and Family Literacy Centres

In the 2007 provincial budget, the government committed to an annual investment of \$6.0 million to expand Parent and Family Literacy Centres across Ontario.

Family literacy and parenting services are free programs for parents, grandparents and caregivers of children from birth to six years old. The programs help prepare children for successful school entry by supporting the establishment of early positive connections to schools, building a strong home-school partnership and providing opportunities for children to gain essential early literacy and numeracy skills.

The goals of Parent and Family Literacy Centres are:

- to provide a program for infants, toddlers and pre-school children that fosters positive parent-child interaction and optimal development of the child
- to provide opportunities for young children to gain essential early literacy and numeracy skills
- to introduce parents positively to the school system and increase parents' knowledge and comfort level with schools
- to provide opportunities for Parent and Family Literacy Centre staff and kindergarten teachers to collaborate
- to support the Ministry of Education's key priorities for high levels of student achievement and reduced gaps in student achievement
- to provide an opportunity for early identification of children with special needs

In this memo, \$5.5 million is being allocated to the boards with Parent and Family Literacy Centres for this initiative.

9. Other

The ministry has also allocated funds to boards towards a number of other initiatives, including:

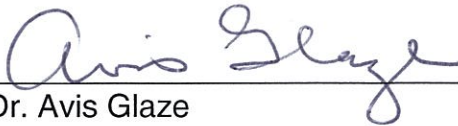
- Strict Discipline Programs
- Mathematics
- Schools on the Move
- Curriculum Learning to 18 (French boards)
- Ontario Software Acquisition Program

If you require further information about this funding, please contact your regular program contacts in the ministry or the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister with responsibility for the program.

Working in partnership, we have made great progress in improving student performance, increasing graduation rate and reducing class size. This funding will continue to support initiatives that improve student achievement. We are confident that, with all your help, we can provide high quality education to our students and allow them reach their full potential.



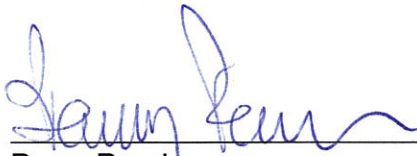
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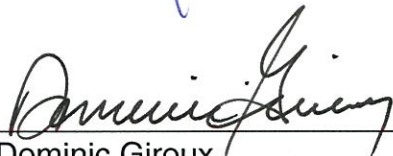
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