

Ministry of Education

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2009:B3

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

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DATE: March 31, 2009

SUBJECT: **2009-10 Funding in addition to Grants for Student Needs**

The Ministry of Education was pleased again this year to release the Grant for Student Needs (GSN) more than five months before the beginning of the school year, on March 27, 2009. For the past two years, the Ministry has also issued memos to school boards summarizing projected funding outside the GSN for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 fiscal year. Boards have provided very positive feedback to this initiative.

To facilitate your budget planning for the 2009-10 school year, we are pleased to confirm that the Ministry is allocating \$185 million (out of about \$260 million) by program at this point to school boards and school authorities to sustain its supports to priority initiatives, in addition to funding provided through the GSN.

Initiatives outlined in this memo are funded through “Education Programs – Other” (EPO) transfer payments. Funding available for Official Languages programs will be confirmed at a later date when the bilateral agreement between the federal government and the provinces is finalized.

The table below provides a summary of the 2009-10 board by board allocations in this memo (see *Appendix for details*). Further information will follow by the end of April on the detailed board by board allocation for other programs outlined later in this memo.

1. BOARD BY BOARD ALLOCATIONS

As a Ministry we remain committed to supporting the government priority Success for Students, and our commitment is to reach every student. This means both “raising the bar,” to encourage the absolute highest achievement from our students, and “closing the gap,” to ensure that we develop strategies to help every student learn, no matter their personal circumstances.

Key programs to help us achieve these goals are outlined in this memo, with \$43 million of funding allocated on a board-by-board basis for the programs noted below:

- **Autism:**

(1) Supports and Training - this funding supports hands-on practical training modules on Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) instructional methods, with increasing skill development to implement ABA instructional methods in the classroom, targeting school based teams, including teachers and other educators working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

(2) Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Expertise: funding for additional ABA expertise in school boards will support deeper implementation of ABA instructional methods as outlined in PPM 140, capacity building in the system through provision of training and coordination at the school board and school level, and will enhance collaborative cooperation between schools and service providers.

- **Healthy Schools:** School boards will receive funding for training of secondary school principals on new nutrition standards for schools.
- **Library Investment Project (Elementary Schools):** Funding continues for library staff (teacher-librarians or library technicians) within elementary schools (the second year of the four year investment); board allocations will be the same amount provided in 2008-09.
- **Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA):** This initiative has enabled boards to increase the capacity of teachers, principals, and board

administrators to utilize information in support of improved student outcomes. The ministry will continue to provide funding to further assist with MISA Local Capacity Building efforts and to continue the MISA Professional Network Centres (PNCs). The 2009-10 funding amount for MISA Local Capacity Building is \$10 million and an additional \$1.6 million for MISA PNCs.

- **Parenting and Family Literacy Centres:** As of 2008-09, there is a network of 123 school-based Parenting and Family Literacy Centres (PFLCs) in 12 school boards. Centres are located in schools serving high needs neighbourhoods, and provide opportunities for young children to gain essential early literacy and numeracy skills while fostering parents' knowledge and comfort with the school. In 2009-10, additional funding will be provided to expand the number of PFLCs.
- **Safe Schools:** The Student Support Leadership Initiative was jointly developed by the Ministries of Education and Child and Youth Services to help support school boards and community agencies to form and enhance partnerships to provide non-academic supports that promote positive student behaviour. The initiative also aligns with Ontario's first policy framework for child and youth mental health which promotes enhanced collaboration and coordination across school boards and community agencies to support the health development of Ontario's children and youth.
- **Teacher Learning and Leadership Program:** This program involves experienced teachers self-selecting and sharing learning experiences based on ministry, board or school priorities. It enhances opportunities for experienced teachers to expand their knowledge and leadership skills, and share exemplary practices with others. To date approximately 150 projects, involving the work of over 1,000 teachers, were approved for funding.

2. PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS

For your information, a further \$142 million is outlined by program, with board by board allocation to be confirmed (in many cases) by the end of April.

This includes funding for ongoing base programs that are largely unchanged from 2008-09, such as:

- Additional funding for **Parenting and Family Literacy Centres (\$1.5M)** partly allocated by board in this memo.
- **Aboriginal Education (\$4M):** funding for school board projects focused on building capacity within boards to implement the First Nation, Métis and Inuit framework. Funding will be determined via a proposal-based process, as it was 2008-09.

- **Character Development (\$1M):** The Character Development initiative recognizes that education is about more than reading, writing and creating good workers. Fostering student success is also about developing well-rounded citizens who will help build a strong, caring and compassionate society. Funding will be allocated by board based on enrolment.
- **Collaborative Service Delivery Models for Students with ASD Phase 1 & 2 (\$4.3M):** funding to support effective service delivery for students with ASD. Phase 2 will focus on students transitioning from Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) delivered through the Autism Intervention Program funded by MCYS into ABA instructional methods in schools. All district school boards will benefit from the learning of these funded boards as they implement this transition model.
- **Community Use of Schools – Outreach Coordinators (\$4M fiscal year, \$6.4M school year):** This program helps to ensure the effectiveness of the Community Use of Schools program at the local level. Coordinators fulfill functions within school boards which include, but are not limited to: supporting the use of schools as a community resource, community outreach, coordinating with EDU, municipalities, community agencies, schools and user groups, data collection and information sharing. *Note: this funding was provided through the Grants for Student Needs for the 2008-09 school year.*
- **Energy Procurement and Conservation (\$3M):** This funding will assist School Boards in meeting the requirements in terms of energy management, energy conservation and energy procurement.
- **Focus on Youth (\$6M):** funding for this program continues in 2009-10 to support the partnership between the Ontario government, school boards and local community agencies, and provides summer programming and employment opportunities for students in urban, high-needs neighbourhoods.
- **Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership – OFIP (\$26M):** provides a range of supports for boards and schools in general, and more intense support for approximately 1,100 low-performing and static schools. Student Achievement Officers from the ministry work with boards and school staff to analyze student achievement data, provide support and monitor school progress and program impacts. Part of the funding will be allocated by board based on enrolment, and part will be targeted based on performance.
- **OFIP Tutoring (\$8M):** These funds enable boards to initiate or extend programs that assist students beyond their regular day to strengthen literacy and numeracy skills, such as before and after school tutoring, partnerships with local community groups to provide tutoring and cultural programs that focus on literacy and numeracy skill development. Funding will be allocated by board based on enrolment.

- **Ontario Leadership Strategy - Mentoring - New Principals, VP's (\$4M):** The Ontario Leadership Strategy, launched in the fall of 2008, was developed to foster leadership of the highest quality in schools and school boards across the province. The Ministry is providing funding in key areas related to the Ontario Leadership Strategy (OLS). Boards will receive funding to support leadership development and the provincial Mentoring Program for Newly Appointed School Leaders, in their first and second years of practice.
- **Parents Reaching Out Grants – School Councils (\$1M):** This program provides funding up to \$1000 to school councils to enhance and improve parental involvement in schools. As in 2008-09, funding will be allocated via an application process.
- **Provision of Alternative Drinking Water (\$0.5M):** School Boards are expected to make alternative drinking water available in schools where drinking water test results exceed the standard of 10 micrograms of lead per litre after flushing. As for 2008-09, expenditures which are eligible to be reimbursed include the costs of water dispensers, rental or purchase of water coolers, water filters, and paper cups.
- **Schools on the Move (\$1M):** The Schools on the Move – Lighthouse Program celebrates and connects schools that are making significant and sustained progress in student achievement. The goal is for schools to network with other schools that have similar backgrounds and challenges in order to learn and share successful strategies for improving student learning in literacy and mathematics. As in 2008-09, funding is allocated based on performance (such as EQAO results) and will be finalized later in the year.
- **Tutors in the Classroom (\$1.5M):** With this funding, boards are able to train and hire postsecondary students to tutor elementary students. The tutors support the work of classroom teachers by working with students to reinforce skills and concepts. Funding is allocated based on applications recommended from the boards and will be finalized later in the year.

The ministry will also provide funds to implement new programs and to expand existing programs, such as:

A. STUDENT SUCCESS / LEARNING TO 18

- **Math/Literacy (\$7M):** This funding supports professional learning initiatives and supports for school boards to continue the focus on improving grades 7-12 student achievement in mathematics and literacy. Examples include: Math GAINS, cross-curricular and integrated literacy supports.
- **Specialist High Skills Major (\$16M):** In 2009-10, the additional \$2M in funding will support boards in their expansion of SHSM programs including the addition of SHSM

sectors in more schools and the costs associated with delivering the program to a significantly increased number of SHSM students.

- ***Differentiated Instruction - Mentoring/Coaching (\$4M)***: Boards will receive an increase of \$3.2M in funding for professional learning initiatives to support Differentiated Instruction implementation in grades 7-12. Examples include: professional learning communities, team planning, coaching, and teacher release.
- ***Dual Credit programs (\$10M)***: In 2009-10, boards will receive an additional \$5.6M in funding to provide more students with dual credit learning opportunities in college courses and apprenticeship programs.
- ***Speak UP – student engagement (\$1M)***: this program funds SpeakUp student council and student led projects (by application) that support student engagement in learning.
- *****NEW** Student Success School and Cross Panel Teams - Professional Learning (\$1.5M)***: this funding provides professional learning opportunities/supports for Student Success School Teams and their elementary colleagues to monitor, track and support grades 7-12 students who are at risk and students transitioning into grade 9 and between schools during the school year.

B. LITERACY AND NUMERACY

- ***The School Effectiveness Framework and Leads (\$20M)***: Funding supports one School Effectiveness Lead in each board and release time for teachers and principals.
- ***Schools Helping Schools - Networking (\$13M)***: All boards will receive funding to engage staff in professional learning through networks. Funding will be allocated by board based on enrolment.

C. OTHER PROGRAMS

- *****NEW** Community Use of Schools – Priority Schools (\$3.2M fiscal year, \$5M school year)***: As part of the continued enhancement of the Community Use of Schools program, the Government will be providing new funding to boards for use in selected priority schools in communities that need it most, so that they can provide free after-hours access to not-for-profit community groups.

The Ministry is also taking steps to simplify board compliance with transfer payments and reduce administration associated with initiatives funded outside of GSN, to minimize work for boards. To do this, the Ministry will:

- create a “global” EPO transfer payment agreement covering all EPO programming that will be signed with boards early each fiscal year and have attached addendums for each EPO initiative outlining requirements on use of monies and reporting;
- reduce reporting requirements with stand-alone reporting requests issued on an exception basis; and
- continue to provide details to boards early in the fiscal year for the majority of their yearly EPO allocations.

If you require further information about this funding, please get in touch with 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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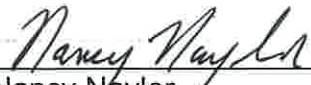


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