

2009: B4

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

FROM: Nancy Naylor
Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: April 9, 2009

SUBJECT: Education funding regulations for 2009-10

I am writing to inform you that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) regulations for 2009-10 have been made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and are now in effect. These regulations implement the funding enhancements described in the memorandum of March 27, 2009: B2 – Education Funding for 2009-10. The regulations also include provisions to ensure that only eligible school boards receive those funding enhancements that support the Provincial Framework Agreements.

Through these regulations, the government is allocating a projected \$19.78B for elementary and secondary education in the 2009-10 school year.

The new funding regulations are:

- (1) *Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2009-10 School Board Fiscal Year*
- (2) *Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2009-10 School Board Fiscal Year*
- (3) *Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment for the 2009-10 School Board Fiscal Year*

Enhancements described in the Provincial Framework Agreements (PFAs)

As stated in 2009: B2, in 2009-10 the government will fully fund its commitment to support the PFAs – a commitment that includes enhanced funding for program, staffing, and compensation.

As is already the case in the current (2008-09) school year, a board must fulfil the conditions of the PFAs to benefit from the funding enhancements described in the PFAs. The board-by-board funding projections for 2009-10, which the Ministry released on March 27 (the document, *School Board Funding Projections for the 2009–10 School Year*, is available on the Ministry website www.edu.gov.on.ca) reflect the salary benchmark increases applicable to parties who have ratified collective agreements that are in keeping with the terms of the PFAs. The projections also reflect the additional enhancements available to boards with such agreements. Where such agreements are not in place, boards will receive funding for a salary benchmark increase of 2 per cent for affected staff and no additional funding for any other PFA enhancements.

The 2009-10 funding regulations therefore include provisions that will reduce the entitlement of non-qualifying boards. As most collective agreements covered by PFAs have already been ratified for the four-year period 2008 to 2012, these provisions address only situations where there is still a possibility that a board will not qualify for the additional salary increases and other funding enhancements. These situations involve English-language public boards that have not yet entered into PFA-compliant collective agreements with respect to teachers in one or both of the elementary and secondary panels.

A board-by-board summary of the potential reductions in the allocation for these boards is appended. As boards are currently undertaking school staffing for 2009-10, non-qualifying boards must calculate, as part of their budget planning/Estimates process, the reductions that will result if they are not eligible for the PFA enhancements in 2009-10, specifically in the areas of elementary occasional teachers, preparation time, grade 4 - 8 class size reduction and professional learning as well as secondary programming. As noted in the memorandum of April 3, **2009: SB11 – 2009-10 Estimates**, non-qualifying boards will report this information under Section 1 of the Estimates forms.

Estimates forms have been released that reflect the release of the 2009-10 regulations and are available on EFIS. To assist non-qualifying boards calculate the reductions for inclusion in their Estimates forms, the Ministry will issue a simulation document set in EFIS, with detailed instructions, before the end of April 2009.

Other information

The due date for submission of school boards' Estimates for 2009-10 is June 30, 2009.

The implementation of some funding commitments described in **2009: B2** has required technical amendments to the 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 GSN regulations. In addition, the following regulations have been revoked:

- *Transition Assistance Grants – O. Reg. 124/98*
- *Transition Assistance Grants, No. 2 – O. Reg. 476/98*
- *Transition Assistance Grants, No. 3 – O. Reg. 214/00*

The new regulations may be accessed through the Ministry's public website, www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html.

If you require further information about the GSN regulations and school board funding in 2009-10, please contact:

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Other changes in the 2009-10 GSN	Didem Proulx	(416) 327-9060 didem.proulx@ontario.ca
Provincial Framework Agreements	Margot Trevelyan	(416) 325-2836 margot.trevelyan@ontario.ca
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The 2009-10 GSN has affirmed Ontario's commitment to publicly funded education as an investment in the province's economic and social future. The Ministry looks forward to working with school boards as they plan their 2009-10 budgets in consultation with their communities. Together, we can meet the challenges of the current economic environment and continue to deliver an excellent education to all Ontario's students.



Nancy Naylor
Assistant Deputy Minister

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