

2011: B9

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

FROM: Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: September 6, 2011

SUBJECT: In-year amendments to education funding
regulations for 2010-11 and 2011-12

I am writing to inform you of in-year amendments to the education funding regulations that have been made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. These amendments make changes to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding regulations for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years and are effective immediately.

These amendments affect (1) Top-Up funding for new schools and schools with major additions/retrofits, (2) capital funding, (3) Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program (FDK) capital funding, (4) the School Foundation Grant, and (5) the recognition for grant purposes of certain school board election expense costs.

1. Top-Up funding for new schools and schools with major additions/retrofits

Beginning in 2010-11, new schools – including schools opened in the 2009-10 school year and schools with major additions or retrofit projects completed in 2009-10 or later – are not eligible for School Operations and School Renewal Top-Up funding. In both the 2010-11 and 2011-12 GSN regulations, this was put into effect through a table (*Table 16 – Top-Up Excluded Schools* in the 2010-11 GSN and *Table 17 – Top-Up Excluded Schools* in the 2011-12 GSN). These tables had to be updated regularly to reflect newly opened schools and major school additions and retrofits. To achieve the same goal in a more efficient manner, the tables have been removed and replaced with regulatory wording in both the 2010-11 and 2011-12 regulations.

2. Capital funding

The 2010-11 GSN regulation has been amended to update *Table 27 – Entitlement for Consolidated Capital Programs*. This update reflects additional allocations to school boards supported out of the \$120M in capital funding described in the memorandum of June 8, 2010: **SB29 – \$120M in Capital Funding Available for 2010-2011**. The additional allocations are top-ups to previously approved projects, allowing these projects to proceed to construction in a timely manner.

A new section has been added to the 2011-12 GSN regulation, *Section 55.1 – Amount for Capital Priority Projects*, along with the corresponding *Table 27.1 - Entitlement for Capital Priorities Projects*. These amendments will enable school boards to access funding for the construction of approved capital priorities grant projects announced in June 2011. These projects include building or purchasing schools, building additions, or undertaking major retrofits to existing schools.

In the 2011-12 GSN regulation, amendments have also been made to *Table 19 - Temporary Pupil Accommodation* for two school boards that provided updated information on their historical use of temporary pupil accommodations.

3. FDK capital funding

An amendment to the 2011-12 GSN regulation updates FDK capital funding provided under *Table 28 – Full day junior kindergarten and kindergarten accommodation maximum amount*. This update reflects FDK funding provided for new schools and additions under the Capital Priority Grant Program as well as minor updates to Year 3 FDK allocations.

4. School Foundation Grant

An amendment to the 2011-12 GSN regulation has “frozen” the facility information that was used to generate the 2011-12 School Foundation Grant allocations announced as part of the March 2011 GSN release, with the exception that allocations will be updated for new schools that open in 2011-12. This change allows the Ministry to review and validate updates to facilities data received through the facility verification process undertaken to support the Condition Assessment Program for Education Facilities in Ontario, while ensuring that the updates have no impact on school board's finances and balanced budget positions in 2011-2012. The data updates will be incorporated into the 2012-2013 GSN.

This will allow the Ministry to clarify the existing School Foundation Grant eligibility criteria, and identify unique circumstances that might necessitate refinements to the grant's eligibility criteria and funding parameters for 2012-13.

5. Election expense costs

The 2010-11 and 2011-12 GSN regulation have been amended to recognize, for grant purposes, the election expense costs in cases where a school board is legally obligated to run a by-election or has to pay for election recounts and compliance audits.

In the regular election cycle – every four years for municipal and school board elections – local municipalities cover the cost of the elections in municipally organized areas within school board jurisdiction. In certain circumstances, however, the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* allows municipalities to recover specific election costs from the school boards. These circumstances, while infrequent, include certain by-elections, recounts, and compliance audits undertaken for the school board election, all identified under the *Municipal Elections Act*.

If you require further information about these changes, please contact:

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FDK capital funding	Grant Osborn	(416) 325-1705 grant.osborn@ontario.ca
School Foundation Grant and Election expense costs	Didem Proulx	(416) 327-9060 didem.proulx@ontario.ca

At the start of the 2011-12 school year, I would like to reaffirm the Ministry's commitment to working in partnership with school boards to ensure that education funding meets the needs of students, schools, and communities. Together, we will continue to deliver on the province's goal of improved student achievement and to manage education resources effectively and efficiently.



for Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister

Copy: Superintendents of Business and Finance