

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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2014:B10

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

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DATE: September 25, 2014

SUBJECT: **2014-15 School Year Education Programs – Other (EPO)
Funding (Second Memo)**

We are writing to you with an update to Memorandum B5 (released on March 27, 2014). This memo provides further allocation details for the 2014-15 school year EPO transfer payment funding.

EPO Streamlining and Modernization

To provide strong support to our renewed vision, which reflects our shared commitment to the success and well-being of every student and child, the ministry is working collaboratively to develop structures and processes that increase clarity and enhance coherence and alignment in our practices.

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EPO program funding, the ministry has been working to develop a more systematic approach to modernize and streamline EPO funding management to address communication, reporting, monitoring, and program integration. The target date for implementing the new approach is the 2015-16 school year. The new reporting mechanism outlined in Memorandum B5 is part of the ministry's effort on streamlining EPO (from the perspective of reporting requirements). We

continue to carry out collaborative consultations and encourage stronger partnerships in the sector to support improved efficiency and resource stewardship.

Furthermore, as indicated in previous EPO memos, the ministry encourages school boards to identify opportunities for coordinating and integrating work in support of EPO funded initiatives and in service of their own identified improvement needs.

Funding Allocations

Memorandum B5 announced a total of \$178.9 million in funding to school boards, of which \$119.7 million was allocated by board and \$59.2 million was allocated by program. Memorandum B10 provides board by board allocations for \$37.0 million of the \$59.2 million, as well as the allocation of \$2.9 million for the Parents Reaching Out Grants, announced on August 27, 2014.

In total, Memorandum B10 provides a board-by-board breakdown of \$39.9 million of funding (see Appendix A for details). Remaining funding (about \$22 million) will be communicated in the future, pending the availability of further data and information.

Initiative (\$)	Allocated by Board			Allocated by Program**	Grand Total
	Announced in B5 Memo by Program*	Announced Outside of B Memo	Total Allocated by Board		
Aboriginal Education - First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Education Policy Framework Implementation	4,902,752		4,902,752		4,902,752
Enrolment Reporting Initiative	2,000,000		2,000,000		2,000,000
French-language School and Student Support Grades 7 to 12	475,500		475,500	364,500	840,000
Ontario Leadership Strategy	3,976,934		3,976,934		3,976,934
Outdoor Education and Engagement	18,710,652		18,710,652	1,289,356	20,000,008
Parent Reaching Out Grants - Provincial/Regional		824,350	824,350		824,350
Parent Reaching Out Grants - School Councils		2,085,145	2,085,145		2,085,145
Re-Engagement Initiative (12&12+)	1,199,999		1,199,999		1,199,999
Student Success School Support Initiative	4,515,109		4,515,109		4,515,109
Tutors in the Classroom	1,200,030		1,200,030		1,200,030
Total	36,980,975	2,909,495	39,890,470	1,653,856	41,544,326

* Amounts may vary from those shown in B5 memo as detailed allocations are based on either formula or applications.

** Announced by program in B5 memo.

Outlined below are descriptions for programs previously announced in Memorandum B5 as well as new programs.

PROGRAM NOTED IN B5 MEMO

Aboriginal Education - First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Education Policy Framework Implementation (\$4.9M)

The ministry's investment in Aboriginal Education outside of the GSN will provide continued support for the implementation of the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit*

Education Policy Framework.

Specifically, this investment will support boards in developing action plans and implementing 2014-15 strategies and actions identified for school boards in the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework Implementation Plan* including:

- Developing a *Board Action Plan on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education* with the help of the *Board Assessment Tool* as well as the *Board Aboriginal Education Analytical Profile* in order to examine progress to date and identify key priority areas moving forward;
- Analyzing board and school data to assess progress in reducing the gap in student achievement;
- Continuing to target and refine strategies to support First Nation, Métis and Inuit student achievement and well-being;
- Continuing to support increased knowledge and awareness of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultures, histories, traditions, and perspectives among all students and staff;
- Increasing the focus in board strategic planning to promote the voluntary, confidential self-identification of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students as a means to enhance the success and well-being of Aboriginal students and to help close the achievement gap; and
- Continuing to identify and share promising practices and resources to help improve First Nation, Métis and Inuit student achievement and to close the gap.

Further information concerning board funding opportunities for the 2014-15 School Year was communicated to boards on September 5, 2014 by the Aboriginal Education Office.

Enrolment Reporting Initiative (\$2.0M)

This funding of \$2.0 million in 2014-15 is to support school board implementation of the Enrolment Reporting Initiative. This initiative was announced on November 1, 2013 to replace paper-based enrolment registers for continuing education and other programs with other electronic student management systems and Ontario School Information System (OnSIS) data collection.

French-language School and Student Support Grades 7 to 12 (\$0.8M)

Targeted French-language school boards will receive funding to support the capacity of leaders and teaching staff in grade 7-12 schools. The funding will be used to plan evidence-based projects that are intended to ensure the long-term success and well-being of students. Initiatives such as Differentiated Instruction that build capacity through professional learning projects or the Re-engagement Initiative (12&12+) are some examples of projects that will continue to be funded.

About \$0.4 million of this funding is yet to be allocated by board. Boards were invited to submit projects to support at-risk students in their classrooms. The submission deadline for the projects was August 29, 2014 and the projects are currently under review. Funding will be confirmed to boards by the end of September and sent in October.

Ontario Leadership Strategy (\$4.0M)

The Ontario Leadership Strategy (OLS), launched in 2008, is designed to foster leadership of the highest quality in schools and boards across the province. Significant progress has been accomplished across boards in the implementation of the OLS and building on the foundation, efforts are now focused on increasing impact and assessing results in

2013-14. Boards will be provided with this funding allocation with the expectation that they will continue to further the implementation of their Board Leadership Development Strategy. This strategy will enhance the boards' succession planning and talent development initiatives, including mentoring for newly appointed school leaders, and principal/vice-principal performance appraisals. The Board Leadership Development Strategy will directly support the goals of the school and board improvement plans for student achievement and well-being and the board strategic plan.

Outdoor Education and Engagement (\$20.0M)

This funding will be used to support outdoor learning activities for elementary and secondary students. These activities may be provided by school boards or by third party organizations, such as non-profit or community groups. For 2014-15 school year, \$18.7 million in funding has been allocated by board and the balance of \$1.3 million will be allocated to the remaining boards in the near future.

In 2014-15, this funding is for expenses associated with student learning activities in the outdoors. For example:

- fees related to participation in outdoor learning activities provided by school boards or by third party organizations, such as non-profit or community groups
- to enlist the expertise and/or facilities/resources of community agencies in outdoor learning activities
- transportation costs
- teacher release time

In 2014-15, this allocated funding may not be used for:

- staffing
- costs associated with board outdoor education facilities, e.g., repairs, equipment
- the purchase or development of learning resources

Re-engagement Initiative (12&12+) (\$1.2M)

Funding will again be allocated to English Language School Boards in 2014-15 to provide support as they contact, mentor and monitor students who, despite being close

to graduation, have left school. Boards will provide the ministry with the number of students who were contacted, who returned, the number of credits obtained and the number of students who met the literacy and community involvement graduation requirements and the number of students who graduated.

Student Success – School Support Initiative (\$4.5M)

Selected English-language school boards will receive funding to support capacity building in low performing secondary schools. The School Support Initiative (SSI) is a closing the gap strategy which focuses on improving student achievement, increasing the pass rates and credit accumulation.

The funding is to support the implementation and monitoring of the SSI, to build the capacity of the principal as the instructional leader and for job-embedded professional learning for teachers.

Also, this initiative has been expanded and will include additional secondary schools where pass rates in grade 9 and 10 Applied compulsory courses are below the provincial rate.

Tutors in the Classroom (\$1.2M)

With this funding boards are able to hire and train post-secondary students to tutor elementary students. The tutors support the work of classroom teachers by working with students to reinforce skills and concepts. Funding is accessed by board application and will be finalized later in the year.

PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED OUTSIDE OF B MEMO

Parents Reaching Out Grants – Provincial/Regional & School Councils (\$2.9M)

Parents Reaching Out grants encourage parent engagement at the local, regional and provincial levels. The grant program is designed to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being. There are two types of grants: School councils may apply for grants to support school-based initiatives focused on engaging parents who may experience challenges in becoming involved in the school due to language barriers such as, recent immigration, poverty, newness to the Ontario's school system, or other factors; Regional/provincial grants are available to parent organizations, school boards, non-profit organizations and post-secondary institutions working in partnership with parents. This year, the application period ran from March 5 to May 16, 2014. The announcement of successful applications was made on August 27, 2014.

If you require further information about these initiatives, please contact your regular ministry program contacts or the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the program.

Together we have made significant advancements in enhancing student performance and increasing the graduation rate. We are confident that Ontario's students will have the needed tools and resources to succeed in the 21st Century with our continued effort and funding.

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