

Ministry of Education

Office of the ADM
Financial Policy and Business
Division
20th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint
Division des politiques financières et des
opérations
20^e étage, Édifice Mowat
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



2015: B14

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

FROM: Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister
Financial Policy and Business Division

Tim Hadwen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Education Labour Relations Division

DATE: **July 15, 2015**

SUBJECT:

- 1. Grants for Student Needs Funding Regulations for 2015–16**
- 2. Fees For Central Bargaining for the 2015-2016 School Board Fiscal Year Regulation**

We are writing to inform you that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding regulations for 2015-16 have been made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. These regulations implement the funding investments, structural reforms, and other changes described in the memorandum *2015: B07 – Grants for Student Needs Funding for 2015–16*.

We also wish to provide you with information on a new regulation, *Fees For Central Bargaining for the 2015-2016 School Board Fiscal Year*, made under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*.

1. 2015-16 GSN funding regulations

Through the GSN regulations, the government is allocating a projected total of almost \$22.5B for elementary and secondary education in the 2015–16 school year.

The new funding regulations are:

1. *Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2015–16 School Board Fiscal Year*;
2. *Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2015–16 School Board Fiscal Year*; and
3. *Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment for the 2015–16 School Board Fiscal Year*.

All of the above regulations may be accessed through the [Ministry's public website](#).

The implementation of the province's GSN funding commitments has also required technical amendments to the 2010–11, 2012–13, 2013–14, and 2014–15 GSN and related regulations.

Transportation of Pupils in Schools Operated by the Ministry

The Lieutenant Governor in Council has made a new regulation that enables the Ministry to provide weekly transportation service to students attending residential Provincial and Demonstration School programs beginning in 2015–16.

Audit Committees

Amendments to O. Reg. 361/10, *Audit Committees*, ensure that this regulation fully reflects the government's policy goals for audit committees and accountability in the public sector. The amendments better align reporting requirements with Ministry information requirements. They also respond to sector requests to allow a non-board member to serve as committee Chair and to provide for greater consistency in the committee's duties.

Restricted Purpose Revenues – Learning Opportunities Grant

Amendments to O. Reg. 193/10, *Restricted Purpose Revenues*, implement the enveloping of six allocations in the Learning Opportunities Grant, as described in the memorandum *2015: B07 – Grants for Student Needs Funding for 2015–16*. These allocations directly support programs to improve student achievement. They are enveloped as a group: boards are required to spend the total funding received from the six allocations on programs and services associated with improving student achievement through these initiatives. As also noted in *2015: B07*, this new accountability requirement does not replace current program reporting or evaluation requirements specific to any one of the six allocations.

If you require further information about the GSN regulations and school board funding in 2015–16, please contact:

| Subject | Contact | Telephone and E-Mail |
|---|-------------|--|
| Financial accountability and reporting requirements | Marie Li | (416) 326-0201 marie.li@ontario.ca |
| Operating funding | Joshua Paul | (416) 327-9060 joshua.paul@ontario.ca |

2. Fees for Central Bargaining regulation

The *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014 (SBCBA)* has established a new statutory framework under which the provincial government and trustees' associations directly participate in central collective bargaining as co-management partners. Under the SBCBA, trustees' associations are the statutory central employer bargaining agencies for school boards in central negotiations with teachers' federations and education worker unions.

Beginning in 2015-16, boards will be provided with funding to support the labour relations activities of their respective trustees' associations. As stated in *2015: B07*, this funding will be allocated annually through the School Board Administration and Governance Grant.

In total, almost \$4.6M will be provided to school boards in 2015–16. As shown in the following table, the amount of total funding provided to each designated bargaining agent differs: this reflects the associations' varying levels of participation in central bargaining with teacher federations and education worker unions.

| Type of School Board | # of School Boards (A) | Total Payments for Designated Bargaining Agent (B) | Funding for each school board (B ÷ A) |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| English Public | 31 | \$1,342,805 | \$43,316 |
| English Catholic | 29 | \$1,247,481 | \$43,017 |
| French Public | 4 | \$934,511 | \$233,628 |
| French Catholic | 8 | \$1,038,835 | \$129,854 |
| Isolate/Hospital | 9 | \$9,000 | \$1,000 |
| TOTAL | n/a | \$4,572,632 | n/a |

Details of the formula used to calculate these amounts are appended to this memorandum.

The new *Fees For Central Bargaining for the 2015-2016 School Board Fiscal Year* regulation provides a regulatory framework to support the flow of these funds. It makes

the payment of labour relations fees mandatory, with a deadline of October 15, 2015, for payment. It further provides for the forfeiture of ratification voting rights in the event of non-payment by November 15, 2015.

The regulation reinforces the accountability relationship between the trustees' associations and the school boards, allowing trustees' associations to directly collect fees from the boards that they represent in central bargaining. It requires the trustees' associations to use the funds solely for the purpose of labour relations activities, including preparation for and conduct of central bargaining, and ongoing contract maintenance. More specifically, the funds cover costs related to staffing positions for central negotiations, as well as travel and accommodation and other *SBCBA*-related responsibilities, including additional operating expenses, actuarial services, legal services, and translation.

The regulation will be reviewed annually as part of the GSN process. In the event that funding benchmarks are updated in the GSN, the government would consider revising funding levels to reflect those updates.

If you require further information about the Fees for Central Bargaining regulation, please contact Stephanie Donaldson, Education Labour Relations Policy Branch, at 416-212-6971 or stephanie.donaldson@ontario.ca.

The current round of collective bargaining in the elementary and secondary education sector is the first under the *SBCBA* framework and the first in which the trustees' associations are representing school boards as the statutory central employer bargaining agencies. The Ministry appreciates and values our shared commitment to maintaining the fiscal stability of Ontario's publicly funded education system and to supporting student success.

Original signed by:

Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister
Financial Policy and Business Division

Tim Hadwen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Education Labour Relations Division

Copy: Louise Pinet, Directrice générale, ACÉPO
Benoit Mercier, Directeur général, AFOCSC
Kevin Kobus, Executive Director, OCSTA
Gail Anderson, Executive Director, OPSBA
Superintendents of Business and Finance

Appendix: Calculation of amounts for district school boards

A. Each trustee association will receive:

1. For salaries (salary amounts are based on 2015–16 GSN benchmarks):
 - \$204,568.44 for one full-time director/coordinator of labour relations;
 - \$163,972.13 for one full-time assistant director of labour relations; and
 - For other staff, 0.5 full-time equivalent, multiplied by the number of central tables and by \$76,647.
2. For operating expenses, \$63,000 multiplied by the number of central tables.
3. For transportation expenses, \$41,000.
4. For legal costs, \$200,000.
5. For meals and accommodation, 25 days at \$240 per day multiplied by the number of staff (one director/coordinator of labour relations, one assistant director of labour relations, and 0.5 full-time equivalent), multiplied by the number of central tables.

B. The sum of 1. to 5. is the total amount for each trustees' association. Each association's total is divided by the number of boards represented by that association:

- for an English-language public district school board, 31;
- for an English-language separate district school board, 29;
- for a French-language public district school board, 4; and
- for a French-language separate district school board, 8.