

Ministry of Education

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

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

DATE: February 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Capital Planning Capacity Program

I am pleased to provide more details about the Capital Planning Capacity (CPC) program, originally announced in memorandum 2014:B4 Grants for Student Needs Funding and Regulations for 2014-15. This program is intended to build school board planning capacity, particularly in areas where there is a need to address underutilized schools.

The Capital Planning Capacity program is a component of the Ministry's strategic approach to promoting a more efficient use of school space under the School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) initiative. Through SBEM consultations in 2013 and reiterated in the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) consultations in 2014, school boards indicated the need for additional capital planning resources. Some boards indicated a lack of planning staff to undertake some of the processes necessary to make more efficient use of their space. Other boards expressed that undertaking specific processes, particularly those associated with planning for and managing underutilized space, put significant pressure on their existing resources.

Highlights

- \$8.3M in funding is being provided through the School Board Administration and Governance Grant to boards to hire additional capital planning-related resources in 2014-15.
- Board allocations for the 2014-15 school year are listed in Appendix A.

In response, the Ministry is providing funding to support school boards across a range of capital planning functions. For the 2014-15 school year, the Ministry is providing \$8.3 million in Capital Planning Capacity funding to boards to support planning in the areas of Capacity Building and Data Management.

Board allocations for the 2014-15 school year are listed in Appendix A. This funding will flow to boards as part of the 2014-15 GSN, subject to Lieutenant Governor-in-Council (LGIC) approval. While this program is expected to run over a four-year period, the allocation methodology may be modified year-to-year.

Program Objectives

Capital Planning Capacity funds will be available over a four-year period to allow boards to undertake the planning necessary to make more efficient use of their school space. CPC funding is being provided to address the following objectives:

1. *Capacity Building*: The bulk of the CPC funding is being allocated to boards with excess capacity to:
 - a. Ensure they develop capital plans to effectively right-size and manage excess capacity in their schools;
 - b. Support boards to undertake accommodation review processes; and,
 - c. Identify and develop potential facility partnership opportunities in underutilized schools that have been deemed by the board as being viable to support such arrangements.
2. *Data Management*: To increase decision making capacity at all boards by enhancing the ability to update and manage school facility data in a timely manner.

Full details associated with this program, including the allocation methodology are being provided in an upcoming SB memorandum.

Ministry Contact

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Mathew Thomas, Manager, Capital Policy and Programs Branch, at (416) 326-9920 or Mathew.P.Thomas@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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

Cc: Senior Business Officials Attachment

Appendix A – Board Allocations: Capital Planning Capacity Program (2014-15)