

**Ministry of Education**

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**2016: B12**

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

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

Andrew Davis  
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)  
Education Labour Relations Division

**DATE:** **June 16, 2016**

**SUBJECT:**

- 1. Grants for Student Needs Funding Regulations for 2016–17**
- 2. Fees For Central Bargaining for the 2016-2017 School Board Fiscal Year Regulation**

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We are writing to inform you that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding regulations for 2016-17 have been made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. These regulations implement the funding investments, structural reforms, and other changes described in the memorandum *2016: B06 – Grants for Student Needs changes for 2015–16 and 2016–17*.

### **2016–17 GSN Funding Regulations**

Through the GSN regulations, the Government is allocating a projected total of almost \$22.9B for elementary and secondary education in the 2016–17 school year.

The new funding regulations are:

- 1. Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2016–17 School Board Fiscal Year;*
- 2. Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2016–17 School Board Fiscal Year; and*
- 3. Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment for the 2016–17 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 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 GSN and related regulations.

The new regulations for the 2016-17 school year, and the amendments to the 2015-16 school year, reflect the recently negotiated agreements for the Principals and Vice-Principals.

### **Determination of Boards' Surpluses and Deficits Regulation**

Amendments to O. Reg. 488/10, *Determination of Boards' Surpluses and Deficits* have been made to implement some of the changes for the early payout of retirement gratuities. The one-time funding and one-time accounting gain reported by boards as a result of the early payout will reduce the amount of the unfunded retirement gratuity liability that school boards phase into compliance each year. The reduction in the amount to be phased in will be offset by reductions in GSN funding starting in 2016-17. The funding would be affected only to the extent that the Ministry provides funding for the one-time payout and to the extent that the school board reports a one-time gain on the early payout of retirement gratuities in 2015-16. These reductions will be calculated once the relevant information is received after August 31, 2016.

### **Restricted Purpose Revenues Regulation**

Amendments to O. Reg. 193/10, *Restricted Purpose Revenues*, includes new enveloping restrictions for the outdoor education funding and library staff funding transferred into the GSN for the 2016-17 school year, as well as restrictions on the use of funding for temporary accommodation for pupils and the new dedicated position to support the implementation of the Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework.

The outdoor education funding (transferred into the GSN for 2016-17) has been enveloped within the group of allocations currently enveloped under the Learning Opportunities Grant. 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 seven allocations on programs and services associated with improving student achievement through these initiatives. The accountability requirement has not replaced the current program reporting or evaluation requirements specific to any one of the seven allocations.

The funding for library staff, to support the hiring of teacher-librarians and/or library technicians to support the learning of elementary school students, has also been enveloped individually within the Learning Opportunities Grant. The library staff funding is only to be used for the purpose of paying salaries and benefits of library staff.

Temporary accommodation funding for elementary and secondary pupil places only (does not include full day junior kindergarten and kindergarten) is being restricted to support only the following costs:

- operating leases for temporary pupil accommodations;
- relocation and installation of temporary pupil accommodations; and
- capital asset cost incurred by the board for temporary pupil accommodations.

Beginning in 2016-17, all boards will receive a minimum amount of funding (equivalent to the Senior Administration salary and benefits benchmark) within the Per-Pupil Amount (PPA) Allocation to establish a position that is dedicated to supporting the implementation of the Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework introduced in 2007 (Framework). Boards are required to spend at least half of the minimum amount on the salary and benefits of the dedicated position, and confirm that any remainder has been used to support the Framework through their Board Action Plan on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education. Any unspent funding will be deferred to the following school year.

If you require further information about the GSN regulations and school board funding in 2016–17, please contact:

Subject	Contact	Telephone and E-Mail
Financial accountability and reporting requirements	Med Ahmadoun	(416) 326-0201 <a href="mailto:med.ahmadoun@ontario.ca">med.ahmadoun@ontario.ca</a>
Operating funding	Andrew Bright	(416) 325-2005 <a href="mailto:andrew.bright@ontario.ca">andrew.bright@ontario.ca</a>
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## Fees For Central Bargaining Regulation

The *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014 (SBCBA)* 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.

For the upcoming school year, there is a *Fees For Central Bargaining for the 2016-2017 School Board Fiscal Year* regulation, which provides the regulatory framework to continue the support of labour relations activities for the trustees' associations. The regulation is the same as the previous regulation for the 2015-16 school board fiscal year. It continues to make the payment of labour relations fees by the school boards mandatory, with this year's deadline of October 15, 2016, for payment. It further provides for the forfeiture of ratification voting rights in the event of non-payment by November 15, 2016.

To support these fees, the Government is continuing to provide funding support to school boards of almost \$4.6M in the 2016-17 school year.

As shown in the following table, the amount of total funding provided to each designated bargaining agency differs: this reflects the associations' varying levels of participation in central bargaining with teachers' federations and education workers' unions.

Type of School Board / Trustees' Association	# of School Boards (A)	Total Payments for Designated Bargaining Agent (B)	Funding for each school board (B ÷ A)
English-language Public / OPSBA	31	\$1,342,796	\$43,316
English-language Catholic / OCSTA	29	\$1,247,493	\$43,017
French-language Public / ACÉPO	4	\$934,512	\$233,628
French-language Catholic / AFOCSC	8	\$1,038,832	\$129,854
Isolate/Hospital / OPSBA	9	\$9,000	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	n/a	<b>\$4,572,633</b>	n/a

The regulation continues to 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](mailto:stephanie.donaldson@ontario.ca).

*Original signed by:*

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Financial Policy and Business Division

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Education Labour Relations Division

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