

Ministry of Education

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**2018: B01**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education

**FROM:** Doreen Lamarche  
Executive Director  
Education Finance Office

Joshua Paul  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

**DATE:** **January 10, 2018**

**SUBJECT:** **In-year amendments to education funding regulations  
for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years**

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I am writing to inform you of in-year amendments to the education funding regulations that have been made or approved, as applicable, by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. These amendments make changes to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding regulations for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years (O. Reg. 252/17, O. Reg. 253/17 and O. Reg. 215/16). In addition there have also been amendments made to the "Restricted Purpose Revenues" regulation (O. Reg. 193/10). All of these amendments are effective immediately.

These amendments primarily impact:

- The Rural and Northern Education Fund (RNEF);
- The Indigenous Education Grant;
- Eligible School Renewal expenditure;
- Capital Planning Capacity;
- Capital Priority Projects, Capital Priority Land Purchases, and Full Day Kindergarten Capital; and
- Child Care Capital Projects and Child and Family Program Capital Projects.

In addition, there are other minor technical amendments that correct language in the existing regulations to ensure the regulations are fully up to date with the existing policy direction.

## Rural and Northern Education Fund (RNEF)

As announced on June 28, 2017, the ministry has invested an additional \$20 million through the Rural and Northern Education Fund (RNEF) as an enhancement to the GSN, beginning in 2017-18. This funding is dedicated for school boards to further improve education for students from rural communities, and represents an average increase of about \$55 per rural student in 2017-18.

Funding is allocated to school boards based on the number of rural students and two factors measuring the density of rural student enrolment in the board.

An amendment has been made to the regulations to include the new funding for RNEF, as well as setting out restrictions requiring school boards to only use these funds for eligible rural and northern schools.

School boards are required to use the funding for rural education based on local needs, under the following categories:

- Improving educational programs or support services for educational programs (for example, French immersion, arts education and guidance counselling);
- Improving the transportation of pupils (such as late bus runs and mobile e-learning through tablets or Wi-Fi); or
- Continuing the operation of rural schools.

School boards are also required to spend the funding allotted to the board using a preliminary school list from the ministry, which can be modified. The list is comprised of schools in which at least half of their students are from rural communities. It is posted on the following webpage (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html>).

The steps required by the boards to modify the list, include:

1. Passing a board motion based on the following parameters:
  - a. Where the school is the last one in the community served by the board.
  - b. There are no other public services in the community (such as a hospital, library, etc.).
  - c. It is remote from other schools of the board and the board has determined it to be an unreasonable distance to travel.
  - d. Where the board has determined that rural students make up a large portion of the student population of that school.
2. Submitting, to the ministry by February 16, 2018, the list of all the additional schools approved by board motion. Please submit the list of these additional schools to Jeffrey Busby at [Jeffrey.Busby@ontario.ca](mailto:Jeffrey.Busby@ontario.ca), including the school name, School Facilities Inventory System (SFIS) number, Campus ID, Board School Identification number (BSID) and panel (elementary/secondary).

Boards will be required to publicly post details of RNEF expenditures as well as those schools in which RNEF funding was spent.

### **Indigenous Education Grant**

An amendment was made to envelope all of the Per-Pupil Amount (PPA) Allocation of the Indigenous Education Grant. The Indigenous Education Grant (formerly the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement) supports programs designed for Indigenous learning as outlined in the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* released in January 2007. The total Indigenous Education Grant is projected to be \$66.3 million in 2017-18.

The PPA Allocation is being enveloped to ensure this funding is used to support programs and initiatives aimed at improving Indigenous student achievement, well-being and closing the achievement gap between Indigenous students and all students. This amount is projected to be \$25.3 million in 2017-18.

### **Eligible School Renewal Expenditure**

Revisions have been made to the definition of eligible school renewal expenditures under the Restricted Purposes Revenues regulation (O. Reg. 193/10). The amendments restrict the use of renewal funds for the purposes of building additions to facilities. Exceptions to this restriction have been made to accommodate accessibility requirements (e.g. enclosed ramps, external elevators) and new building systems (e.g. HVAC systems and dust collectors). Boards are required to submit requests for additions that fall outside of this scope through the capital priorities process. This revision applies to the School Renewal Allocation and Proceeds of Disposition that are used to address school renewal.

### **Capital Planning Capacity**

A technical amendment was made to the Capital Planning Capacity allocations to accommodate approvals under the Joint Use Seed Funding Program.

### **Capital Priority Projects, Capital Priority Land Purchases, and Full Day Kindergarten Capital**

Amendments to the 2016-17 GSN regulations update Table 34.0.1, Table 34.1 and Table 35 respectively.

These amendments reflect previously communicated funding approvals and will enable school boards to begin planning and construction of approved school consolidation capital priorities projects, including building or purchasing schools, building additions, undertaking major retrofits/renovations to existing schools, and/or purchasing land.

## Child Care Capital Projects and Child and Family Program Capital Projects

Amendments to the 2016-17 GSN regulations update Table 34.3 and 34.4 respectively.

These amendments reflect previously communicated funding approvals and include child care projects and the expected number of child care rooms and spaces to be achieved.

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

Branch	Contact	Telephone & E-Mail
Operating Funding	Andrew Bright	(416) 325-2037 <a href="mailto:Andrew.Bright@ontario.ca">Andrew.Bright@ontario.ca</a>
Capital Policy	Colleen Hogan	(416) 325-1705 <a href="mailto:Colleen.Hogan@ontario.ca">Colleen.Hogan@ontario.ca</a>
Capital Programs	Paul Bloye	(416) 325-8589 <a href="mailto:Paul.Bloye@ontario.ca">Paul.Bloye@ontario.ca</a>
Financial Reporting	Med Ahmadoun	(416) 326-0201 <a href="mailto:Med.Ahmadoun@ontario.ca">Med.Ahmadoun@ontario.ca</a>

*Original signed by:*

Doreen Lamarche  
Executive Director  
Education Finance Office

*Original signed by:*

Joshua Paul  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

cc: Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour and Finance  
Division  
School Business Officials