

Ministry of Education

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2018: B17

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Superintendents of Facilities
Superintendents of Business

FROM: Joshua Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

DATE: November 8, 2018

SUBJECT: **Updates on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding (GGRF) and Renewal Reporting and Accountability Requirements**

In memorandum 2018: B12, the ministry announced the cancellation of the GGRF program and its intention to support already committed projects under the existing program. In this respect, this memorandum provides school boards with:

- Updated allocations under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for the 2018-19 school year; and
- An update on program accountability and reporting.

With this update, the ministry reconfirms its commitment to provide \$1.4 billion in funding for the 2018-19 school year in support of school renewal and condition improvement.

1. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

As per memorandum 2018: B13, to assist the ministry in winding-down the GGRF program, school boards were requested to provide the ministry with all incurred and expected eligible expenditures for contracts entered prior to the cancellation of the program. Based on this information, school boards' GGRF allocation have been revised with the following considerations:

a) Contractually Committed Capital Projects

The ministry will cover costs incurred by school boards, up to and including March 31, 2019, if boards have entered into contractual agreements for capital works on or before June 29, 2018.

b) Projects at a Planning or Design Stage

Ministry staff will work with school boards to continue projects initiated under GGRF, which were without contractual agreements, by managing these projects within existing funding streams. These projects will not be eligible for funding through the GGRF.

Over the next few days, ministry staff will be reaching out to school boards on an individual basis to provide a list of approved projects, which are based on board submissions, that can proceed under GGRF or other funding streams.

Accountability

Note that the use of renewal funds is subject to audit. The ministry may choose to follow up on reported expenditures. Failure to provide details requested by the ministry will result in either claw back or withholding of funds.

To support the wind-down of the GGRF program, please note the following requirements for the 2018-19 school year:

- Additional projects cannot be added to the approved list.
- Boards may elect to change installation sites due to unforeseen circumstances but are not able to change the nature of the work. Ministry staff must be notified in advance.
- No additional funding will be provided for approved projects.

2. Reporting

Capital expenditures related to renewal funding are to be reported in VFA.facility. For Financial Statements and March Report, VFA.facility data will be uploaded nightly to EFIS. As a reminder, for financial statements, projects must be archived to ensure successful transfer to EFIS. After the end of the reporting period, adjustments will be made on a request basis.

Reporting in VFA.facility

School boards are also reminded that:

- GGRF funded expenditures must be reported in VFA.facility identifying GGRF Round 2 as the funding source. Reporting will occur as part of your 2017–18

Financial Statements and 2018-19 March Report.

- SCI funded expenditures must be reported in VFA facility as part of the Financial Statements and March Report.
- SRA funded capital expenditures for the 2017-18 school year must be reported in VFA facility by January 31, 2019. Failure to meet this deadline could result in the ministry withholding SRA funds until reporting is complete.

3. Contact Information

We would like to thank you for your on-going work to support the wind-down of the GGRF program. If you have any questions about the information included in this memorandum, please contact:

Hitesh Chopra, Manager (A) (416) 325-1887 Hitesh.Chopra@ontario.ca	School Condition Improvement Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund School Renewal Allocation
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NOTICE: Some of the elements and proposals set out in this memo can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Minister of Education or Lieutenant Governor in Council under the Education Act. Such regulations have not yet been made. Therefore, the content of this memo should be subject to such regulations, if and when made.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Joshua Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division