

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

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**2019: B15**

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

**FROM:** Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

**DATE:** **April 25, 2019**

**SUBJECT:** **2019-20 Priorities and Partnerships Fund**

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The Ministry of Education is pleased to launch the new Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF).

On March 15, 2019, the government released Memo 2019:B08 *Education that Works for You*, the new vision for Ontario's education system. The vision will be implemented using a responsible approach that will modernize education to maximize student performance and well-being.

On April 11, 2019, the government tabled its 2019 Budget. This year's budget reflects the outcomes of a comprehensive multi-year planning process that's built on the findings of EY Canada's line-by-line review, and the ideas identified in the Planning for Prosperity Survey and the Big Bold Ideas Challenge. The government conducted a thorough review of all government programs in order to ensure investments are sustainable and modernized. The review is also meant to ensure that duplication is eliminated, and valuable programs and services are sustainable and delivering outcomes for the people of Ontario.

In addition to this review, all ministries were required to identify administrative savings. This was to be done by identifying opportunities to modernize services in order to reduce administrative costs and burden, while improving services across ministries, agencies and transfer-payment partners. Ministries considered how they could eliminate duplicative and non-value added processes, and implement automation and other streamlining solutions where repetitive and routine tasks existed previously.

The PPF is being launched in alignment with this year’s Budget and supports Ontario’s new vision for education. The approach will prioritize education funding, supplemental to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), on high impact initiatives that directly support students in the classroom. The funding will replace the previous Education Programs – Other funding and will be evidence-based and outcome-focused while providing streamlined, accountable, and time-limited funding that will be reviewed and assessed by the Ministry each year.

## Funding

For 2019-20 the PPF will provide up to \$330 million in funding to education partners to support students.

To facilitate school boards’ budget planning for 2019-20, today the Ministry is confirming approximately \$185 million of PPF funding to school boards and school authorities to support Ministry priorities. The program allocations are outlined in the following table and school board allocations will follow:

Key Priority	Objective	Amount (\$M)
Curriculum Implementation	To support school boards with the implementation of recently released curriculum	\$2.25M
Engaging Parents and Communities	To involve parents and communities in their children’s education. Parents are a child’s first teacher. When parents are involved everyone benefits – schools become better places to learn and student performance improves	\$1.25M
French-Language Education	To provide opportunities and tailored supports to students in Ontario’s French-Language Education (FLE) system guided by the <i>Aménagement linguistique policy</i>	\$2.13M
Indigenous Education	To improve student performance and well-being and close the performance gap between Indigenous students and all students	\$3.73M
Math	To support Ontario’s students in meeting provincial math standards	\$40.50M

Key Priority	Objective	Amount (\$M)
Mental Health and Well-Being	To support the critical linkage between mental health and well-being and student success	\$34.54M
Special Education	To improve support for families of children and youth with special education needs	\$17.14M
Student Pathways	To support students as they transition to postsecondary destinations including, apprenticeship, college, university, and the workplace	\$35.7M
Supporting Student Potential	To support vulnerable students, including youth at risk, to stay in school, graduate and succeed	\$17.89M
System Support and Efficiencies	To provide support to help ensure that the education system is running efficiently and effectively	\$30.00M

Further information on additional school board PPF initiatives will be provided as it becomes available.

Descriptions of the initiatives for each of the school board PPF initiatives are as follows:

**Curriculum Implementation (\$2.25M)**

Curriculum implementation funding will support the implementation of recently released curriculum, including the revised elementary Health and Physical Education curriculum (2019), and the revised Grade 10 Career Studies course (2019). This funding is in addition to funding announced in the budget to support implementation of Indigenous-focused curriculum revisions, including the revised First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies curriculum (2019). Funding can be used to support professional learning and release time for educators.

## **Engaging Parents and Communities**

### *Parents Reaching Out Grants (\$1.25M)*

These grants will support parents in identifying barriers and opportunities to strengthen parent engagement in their own communities and enable more parents to support their child's learning and well-being.

## **French-Language Education**

### *Implementation of Aménagement linguistique initiatives and strategies to retain and engage students (\$0.1200M)*

Funding to assist French-language school boards in the implementation of aménagement linguistique initiatives in French-Language schools in Ontario with a view to engage students and develop their sense of belonging to the French-language school system and their community.

### *Compass for Success (\$0.0960M)*

Funding to support six French-language school boards, with a view to build the capacity of system leaders, principals and teachers in data collecting, analysis and identifying next steps.

### *Regional inter-council meetings (\$0.0680M)*

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) meetings organized regionally by French-language school boards to facilitate the implementation of SHSM programs in schools, share expertise and facilitate networking among school boards.

### *Special Education Investment (\$1.8500M)*

Final installment in support of a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) with l'Association des enseignantes et enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO) and Council of Trustees' Association (CTA) to promote the success of French-language students with special needs.

## **Indigenous Education**

### *New Indigenous Strategic Priorities (\$3.18M)*

Programs and supports to assist Indigenous learners to graduate, supports successful transition into secondary schools or the labor market, inclusive school environments, innovation. This initiative includes funding for the Indigenous Grad Coach and Rapid Response Northern Schools Team initiatives.

### *Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) (\$0.35M)*

AYEP gives Grade 11 and 12 Indigenous students in selected schools an opportunity to earn two senior business studies credits through a program based on the Ontario business studies curriculum and supplemented by Indigenous content, hands-on activities, guest speakers and business mentors, and funding opportunities. Students develop entrepreneurial skills and learn how to create and establish their own small business.

### *Keewatin Patricia District School Board (KPDSB)/ Keewatinook Okimakanak Board of Education (\$0.2M)*

KPDSB seconds a principal to support the capacity development of educators and administrators in partnering First Nation operated schools to First Nation students success and well-being as they transition from remote and fly in communities, as young as 12, into provincially-funded schools.

### **Math (\$40.5M)**

The Ministry announced a four-year Math Strategy to improve student math performance.

This funding will allow boards to hire a board-based math learning lead to implement the revised math curriculum and to coordinate board improvement efforts in mathematics. Funding will also be provided to hire math learning facilitators to support student performance in targeted elementary and secondary schools. Math learning facilitators will provide training and coaching opportunities for principals and math teachers and support parent engagement.

Release time funding will be provided to all boards, with additional funding provided for targeted schools, to allow educators to engage in school and classroom-based training, coaching, and other co-learning opportunities.

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

#### *Well-Being and Mental Health Bundle (\$3M)*

Funding to support school boards and authorities to meet local needs and priorities that promote well-being and mental health, including safe, healthy, inclusive and accepting learning environments. This funding enables school boards and authorities to support activities in their improvement and multi-year strategic plans, as well as their three year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, and annual Action Plan for Mental Health.

#### *Mental Health Workers in Secondary Schools (\$25M)*

In keeping with the government's commitment to invest in mental health and addictions services in Ontario, in 2019-20 the province will continue to fund the approximately 180 new mental health workers (FTEs) in secondary schools that were initially hired by district school boards in 2018-19. The purpose of this investment is to continue to have regulated mental

health professionals (e.g., social workers, psychologists and psychotherapists) with specialized training in student mental health in secondary schools, providing mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention to students and their families.

This continuing investment will also include annual funding of \$50,000 per school board to support the collection and use of data and information to determine the impact of the initiative on students, families, and schools.

#### *School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) (\$6.5M)*

As part of the government's commitment to build a comprehensive and connected multi-year mental health and addiction system across the lifespan, funding for School Mental Health Ontario (SMH ON), formerly School Mental Health ASSIST, will continue. SMH ON will receive \$6.5M in 2019-20 to provide implementation support to all 72 district school boards through clinical expertise, evidence-based resources/practical tools for educators, and the delivery of consistent professional learning to school-based mental health clinicians, including the new mental health workers in secondary schools.

#### **Special Education**

##### *After School Skills Development Program (\$6.1M)*

The After School Skills Development Program will provide funding to all school boards in the province to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in social, communication, self-regulation and life-planning skills development.

##### *Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with ASD (\$0.374M)*

Continuation of funding to support the provision of dedicated space on school site for external Applied Behaviour Analyst (ABA) practitioners to provide direct service to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in eleven pilot school boards.

##### *Transition Pilot for Students with Developmental Disabilities (\$0.478M)*

Pilot to support select school boards to explore successful practices in transitioning students with developmental disabilities to work, community or postsecondary education.

##### *Supporting Students with Severe Learning Disabilities (LD) in Reading through LD Pilots (\$1.75M)*

Funding to support an intensive reading intervention pilot project in eight district school boards. Pilots were designed to enhance educators' intervention pilot project in eight district (LD) and increase the availability of supports for students with LD in their local communities.

### *Northern Supports Initiatives (NSI) (\$7M)*

Northern Supports Initiative (NSI) is intended to mitigate the challenges faced by all northern school boards with respect to lack of available services in their communities; difficulty in attracting and retaining service professionals at the board level or accessing these services through community partners; and higher costs of service provision. NSI funding is utilized in a regional collaboration model that serves all northern school boards and school authorities through three regional cooperatives. The cooperatives determine local special education priorities, to deliver joint, innovative and cost-effective special education programs and services.

### *Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) (\$1.44M)*

The Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) provides coordinated assessment, consultation and treatment services, on a multi-agency, multi-ministry basis, to children and youth with physical, psychological and educational challenges in under-served rural and remote communities of Northern Ontario. This funding provides access to services from teacher diagnosticians, psychology professionals and speech and language professionals.

## **Student Pathways**

### *Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) (\$23.7M)*

Specialist High Skills Major supports students to focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students receive the SHSM seal on their diploma when they:

- complete a specific bundle of 8-10 courses in the student's selected field
- earn valuable industry certifications including first aid and CPR qualifications
- gain important skills on the job through cooperative education placements.

All school boards with secondary schools receive funding to support this program.

### *Enhancements to Experiential Learning (EL) (\$12M)*

Each board receives enhancements to experiential learning funding, separated into two categories:

- Funding used to hire a full-time, dedicated Leader of Experiential Learning (LEL) for their board.
- Funding to support and to provide effective experiential learning opportunities for students in their board.

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, the focus of LELs will be to provide direction and support to help students in Grades 7-12 continue to engage in experiential learning opportunities, in collaboration with community and industry partners, with a particular focus on increasing

exposure to and awareness of technology, the skilled trades and apprenticeship as viable pathway options for all students.

## **Supporting Student Potential**

### *Focus on Youth 2019 Summer Program (\$7.6M)*

The Focus on Youth (FOY) Program creates summer employment opportunities for high school students who may be disengaged from school and/or experience barriers to employment as a result of home or school environments, including conflict with the law, poverty and/or low academic achievement. Through the program, school boards and community partners offer free or low-cost summer camps for young children.

### *Transportation Supports for Children and Youth in Care (\$6.6M)*

To improve the educational outcomes and well-being of children and youth in care, funding for transportation services enables students to stay in their school of origin when their residence changes until a more natural transition time, so they have stability at school, can focus on their learning, and maintain academic standing and graduate.

### *Human Rights and Equity Advisors (\$2.4M)*

This project provides support for school boards to employ the services of Human Rights and Equity Advisors (HREAs). HREAs work with the Director of the board and with the board's senior team to foster a culture of respect for human rights and equity, help identify and address systemic human rights and equity issues, and increase the board's human rights compliance.

### *Demographic Data Gathering (\$1M)*

Funding to prepare school boards for, or engage in, the collection of voluntary student or staff identity-based data. The funding supports boards to build their capacity to meet the growing needs and expectations of their increasingly diverse communities for evidence-based decision making. This project allows boards to construct the necessary structures and protocols to meet the legal, ethical and research standards for the collection, analysis and use of demographic data.

### *Broadening Horizons (\$0.25M)*

Funding to address equity and human rights issues in priority areas such as rural and northern areas and target barriers that limit student success in schools, for example, to continue the Indigenous Cultural Safety initiative.

## **System Support and Efficiencies**

### *Broadband Modernization Program (BMP) (\$24M)*

Funding will be provided to provide access to reliable, fast, secure and affordable internet services to all students and educators in all regions across Ontario – including in rural and northern communities. The current target connectivity speed is 1 megabit per second per student or educator, in a scalable and sustainable network that can adapt to future needs following a common network architecture across Ontario.

As part of the BMP, the ministry will also work jointly with boards to strengthen cyber protection measures.

### *New Teacher Induction Program – Enhancing Teacher Development Fund (NTIP-ETD) (\$1M)*

This program addresses gaps in the GSN funding formula – specifically:

- Significant changes in number of new permanent hires from the previous year
- NTIP required permanent hires past Year 2 on the Teacher Qualifications and Experience Grid

### *Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP) (\$3.5M)*

This program provides direct funding to front-line teachers, or teams of teachers to build teachers' expertise in effective teaching. The learning projects are teacher-led and influenced by real local needs; for example in math or special education.

### *Apprenticeship and Professional Development Training Funding of Education Workers Represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) (\$1.35M)*

As a result of the 2017 education sector labour negotiations, a grant to school boards with CUPE local bargaining units is to be used on the basis of joint applications received from school boards and CUPE locals for apprenticeship training under the OCT and or professional development opportunities.

### *Apprenticeship Training Funding of Education Workers Represented by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation – Education Workers (OSSTF-EW) (\$0.15M)*

As a result of the 2017 education sector labour negotiations, a grant has been allocated to school boards with OSSTF education worker local bargaining units to be used on the basis of joint applications received from school boards and OSSTF locals for apprenticeship training under the Ontario College of Trades.

## Next Steps

If you require further information about these initiatives, please contact your regular Ministry program contacts or the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the program.

The Ministry looks forward to continuing our strong partnership with the school boards and school authorities and working towards maximizing student performance and well-being.

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Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister of Education

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