

Ministry of Education

Education Labour and Finance
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Ministère de l'Éducation

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2020: B15

Date: September 3, 2020

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Senior Business Officials
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Andrew Davis
Assistant Deputy Minister
Education Labour and Finance Division

Subject **2020–21 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Related Regulations**

I am writing to inform you that the following regulations have been made:

2020-21 GSN Funding Regulations

The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding regulations for 2020-21 have been made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. These regulations implement the funding investments, structural reforms, and other changes described in the memorandum 2020: B08 – 2020-21 Grants for Student Needs Funding as well as the GSN funding elements described in the memorandum 2020: B11 Investments to Support School Reopening in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak.

Through the GSN regulations, the Government is allocating a projected total of over \$25.52 billion for elementary and secondary education in the 2020-21 school year.

The new funding regulations are:

- Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2020-2021 School Board Fiscal Year;
- Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2020-2021 School Board Fiscal Year; and
- Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment for the 2020-21 School Board Fiscal Year.

All of the above regulations may be accessed through the [Ministry's public website](#).

In addition, as with every year, there are technical and other amendments to existing regulations (Ontario Regulations 132/12, 277/19, 278/19, 284/18, and 285/18) that are required to clarify existing policy and update information received from school boards.

COVID-19 Outbreak

The new regulations and amendments to current regulations also include the following adjustments to reflect the unprecedented circumstances impacting the 2020 summer school courses:

- The exclusion of the new 55 hour upgrading course option for students in Summer 2020, from the 34-credit threshold; and
- Waiving the fee requirement for students attending a school of a board under the Reciprocal Education Approach or under an existing Education Services Agreement and who took a course in Summer 2020.

Class Size (O. Reg. 132/12)

The Class Size regulation has been updated to reflect the new class size requirements for the 2020-21 school year. This includes a change in the average class size to 23 (excluding online courses) at the secondary panel level. The average class size for secondary panel online learning classes is 30. Changes to the regulation will also allow boards to make reports on elementary and secondary school class sizes available to the public in an alternate manner (e.g. posting on the board's website instead of making the report available at physical spaces).

Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2019-2020 School Board Fiscal Year (O. Reg. 277/19) and Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2019-2020 School Board Fiscal Year (O. Reg. 278/19)

The 2019-20 Grants for Student Needs Legislative Grants and Fees regulations have been updated to implement a one per cent increase in the salary benchmarks to reflect the negotiated salary increases for teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as provide benefits funding that vary by employee group, reflecting central agreements, which include up to one per cent increases for benefits' plan maintenance or improvements and additional inflationary increases.

The Legislative Grants regulation has also been amended to reflect updated capital funding approvals that would enable school boards to begin planning and construction of approved capital priorities projects. This would also include updated capital funding approvals for the child care program and land priorities program.

There is also an adjustment to the Transportation Grant for fuel costs and the suspension of the fuel escalator/de-escalator over May and June 2020.

Finally, the Teacher Job Protection Amount has been expanded to include the Projection Variance Protection amount (announced in Appendix A of 2019:SB02), for school boards that satisfy the criteria. The additional teaching FTE, funded through this amount, is included in the Table in this section of the regulation.

Grants for Student Needs – Legislative Grants for the 2018-2019 School Board Fiscal Year (O. Reg. 284/18) and Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2018-2019 School Board Fiscal Year (O. Reg. 285/18)

The 2018-19 Grants for Student Needs and Fees regulations have been updated to reflect the updating of the Crown contribution and stabilization adjustment for benefits trusts amount, as well as other minor technical updates.

If you require further information, please contact:

Subject	Contact	Email
Benefits Trust Funding and Retirement Gratuities	Romina Di Pasquale	romina.dipasquale@ontario.ca
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Sincerely,

Original signed by

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