

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2A5**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

438, avenue University, 5^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2A5**2020:B17****Date:** October 5, 2020**Memorandum To:** Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education**From:** Stephen Lecce
MinisterNancy Naylor
Deputy Minister**Subject:** **COVID-19 Funding: High Priority Areas**

On August 26, 2020 the ministry announced details of the first phase of federal funding to support the reopening of schools in Ontario equal to \$381 million. In that announcement, \$50 million was held back to address future pandemic education needs should they arise. The purpose of this memo is to provide details on some emerging issues that will be supported through the \$50 million future pandemic response fund.

Since the reopening of schools this fall, the ministry has been carefully monitoring Ontario Public Health's weekly epidemiologic summaries. The data from the last few weeks indicates that COVID-19 cases reported in Ontario are increasing in some parts of the province.

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, four high priority areas have been identified: Ottawa Public Health, Peel Public Health, Toronto Public Health, and York Region Public Health. Therefore, the ministry will be providing \$35 million from the future pandemic response fund to further enhance school reopening plans of the twelve school boards in these identified areas, to support an ongoing safe and healthy return to school.

The funding is being allocated based on these school boards' proportionate share of projected student average daily enrolment in the four high priority areas, as well as base funding amount per high priority area, detailed in Appendix A.

This funding must be used to support higher risk communities through the following measures:

- providing increased distancing between students through additional classroom hiring supports (i.e. teachers, early childhood educators, and educational assistants) which could lead to reduced class sizes;
- providing increased remote learning supports, including teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants and technological devices for students.

In addition, this funding is to supplement existing school board COVID-19 spending plans, including first phase of federal funding amounts, provincial funding to date and the planned used of existing accumulated surplus balances.

In the coming weeks, these school boards will receive a Transfer Payment Agreement for the new Priorities and Partnerships Fund investments reflecting these funding allocations.

We will continue to work together to reduce the risk in our communities and schools and support the health and safety of students and staff.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lecce
Minister

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

c: President, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'ontario
Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'ontario
President, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
President, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education
President, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens
President, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
President, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers
Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario
President of OSBCU, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario
Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario

Attachment