

Ministry of Education

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2020: B

Date: November , 2020

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
School 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 Funding Stabilization**

I am writing to provide you with additional information about the Ministry of Education's Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding for 2020–21.

The ministry has been informed that some school boards are facing unexpected enrolment declines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which were unforeseen and therefore did not inform the development of school board budgets earlier this summer. The ministry recognizes that school boards have limited abilities to adjust cost structures in-year to respond to changes of this magnitude without impacting staffing as well as programming and other supports for students.

Therefore, to mitigate the financial impact of the unexpected enrolment decrease, and to ensure ongoing supports and programming for students, the ministry is providing one-time

funding stabilization for the 2020-21 school year only, through the establishment of a 2020-21 GSN funding “floor”.

This means that funding to school boards for the 2020-21 school year will be based on the greater of:

- a. school board actual funding allocations derived through the GSN funding formula, in aggregate; or
- b. a GSN funding allocation “floor” based on the lower of:
 - [2020-21 GSN Projections](#); or
 - 2020-21 School Board Estimates.

Principal elements of the 2020-21 GSN funding “floor” are as follows, with board-by-board “floor” amounts to be provided in the coming weeks:

- It is responsive to the total of all GSN funding impacts on an aggregate level (i.e. individual grant allocations may individually increase or decrease but the calculation is done on a total GSN allocation basis).
- Capital grants that are provided through the School Board Capital Grants transfer payment line and debt related funding are excluded from this calculation.
- Adjustments will be applied for some GSN items to ensure comparability and account for policy decisions that have been made subsequent to GSN Projections and Estimates submissions. Key adjustments include:
 - Special Education allocations for the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Claims-Based Amount, Special Incidence Portion (SIP), and Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP), will be addressed separately; and
 - A school board’s “floor” will be adjusted to include the projected amount of COVID-19 supports provided through the GSN, which was not originally included in school board estimates or board-by-board funding projections (i.e., \$15 million for technology-related costs and \$10 million for mental health supports).

The ministry intends to make a similar adjustment for the school authorities, with further direction to be provided in a separate communication in the coming weeks.

As the proposal set out in the memo can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council under the Education Act, and as such regulations have not yet been made, the content of this memo should be considered to be subject to such regulations, if and when made.

Sincerely,
Original signed by

Andrew Davis
Assistant Deputy Minister
Education Labour and Finance Division