

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre

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2020:B23

Date: November 26, 2020

Memorandum To: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject: **COVID-19 Funding: Additional High Priority Areas and Funding for the Education and Community Partnership Program**

In early October, we shared that four high priority areas had been identified that were seeing higher rates of COVID-19 community transmission.

On November 13, 2020, the Ontario government [announced](#) an updated COVID-19 response framework to respond to the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases. Based on current data and trends, the areas of Durham, Halton, Hamilton and Waterloo are now in the Red-Control level of the updated framework. Therefore, the ministry will be allocating a further \$13.6 million from the Future Pandemic Response Fund to twelve school boards in these identified areas, to support the ongoing health and safety measures for students and staff.

The funding is being allocated based on the school boards' prorated proportionate share of projected student average daily enrolment in these four additional high priority areas, as well as a 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;
- the hiring of additional custodians to support enhanced cleaning.

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

The ministry will also be introducing a one-time investment, utilizing the remaining \$1.4 million from the Future Pandemic Response Fund, for the Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP) to fund technology and technology-related costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to support continued student learning . Each school board's funding allocation is set out in Appendix B.

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,

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