

**2007: SB6**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Superintendents of Business and Finance

**FROM:** Andrew Davis  
Director  
Transfer Payments and Financial Reporting

**DATE:** March 26, 2007

**SUBJECT:** 2007-08 Estimates

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I am pleased to inform you that the 2007-08 Estimates, and instructions detailing the changes this year are now available through the Estimates link on the Financial Reporting website at <http://tpfr.edu.gov.on.ca>.

These Estimates forms, guides and instructions are provided in advance of the release of the 2007-08 Grants for Student Needs regulation.

**As noted on the first page of the Estimates forms, these forms and related documents for the 2007-2008 fiscal year are conditional upon the approval of the appropriate regulations by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.**

The Ministry intends to seek approval of the regulation in April and will advise you if the regulation is approved. The full set of instructions and another version of the forms would then be released on EFIS to remove the first page referred to above.

### **Key changes**

Key changes to the Estimates forms this year include:

- Updates to reflect the implementation of the government commitment to the fourth year of the Labour Framework and changes to incorporate three new grants:
  - Program Enhancements
  - First Nation, Métis and Inuit Supplement
  - Supported Schools

- Revised sections on pupil accommodation as a result of the long-term financing through OFA for the following capital programs:
  - Prohibitive to Repair
  - Primary Class Size Capital
  - Growth Schools
  - Capital Transitional Adjustment Programs for French-language boards
  
- Revisions to the expenditure schedule to report on a separate line a Contingency Fund for the board which would reflect any unallocated expenditures for which the board may not have decided on the specific cost centre or wishes to set aside funds for a potential cost pressure. The schedule has also been expanded to allow boards to build into the estimates an explicit amount for year-end savings, which is not to exceed 0.25% of the board's operating allocation. This approach is in keeping with best practices in other jurisdictions, including that of the Provincial budget and to increase transparency.

### **Budget Workbooks**

Board Budget Workbooks will be available for the first time this year in EFIS. These workbooks are reports generated from information submitted by the board, the purpose of which is to assist in the board's budget deliberations. As part of increasing transparency and accountability in the sector, we shared the draft budget workbook with boards in early March. We have since then received comments and feedback on the reports and have incorporated them in the revised workbook that is available through the Reports EFIS link. The Budget Workbook currently includes information up to and including the 2006-07 Revised Estimates. A second package will be available through EFIS in May or June which will include the 2007-08 Estimates data.

Boards are required to submit their 2007-08 Estimates through EFIS at <https://efis.edu.gov.on.ca/logintp.asp>. The due date for filing the 2007-08 Estimates is June 29, 2007.



Andrew Davis

cc Directors of Education