

Ministry of Education
Transfer Payments and
Financial Reporting Branch

21st Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2
Tel.: (416) 327-9356
Fax: (416) 325-2007
Email: Andrew.Davis@ontario.ca

Ministère de l'Éducation
Direction des paiements de transfert
et des rapports financiers

21^e étage, édifice Mowat
900, rue Bay
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2
Tél. : (416) 327-9356
Télééc.: (416) 325-2007
Courriel: Andrew.Davis@ontario.ca



2007: SB20

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Andrew Davis
Director
Transfer Payments and Financial Reporting

DATE: August 28, 2007

SUBJECT: 2007-08 Primary Class Size Plan Implementation

I am writing to provide you with further information about implementing the Primary Class Size (PCS) Plan in September 2007.

The Ministry is very appreciative of all the work boards have put into the development of the 2007-08 PCS plans. Planned results to date show that most boards have plans that reflect the primary class size goals of 90% of primary classes with 20 pupils or fewer and 100% of primary classes with 23 pupils or fewer. The Ministry will continue to work with any boards which have not yet achieved the PCS cap.

As outlined in Memo 2007:B9, to ensure that boards can continue to plan to implement the cap in 2007-08 in a way that provides maximum benefit to students, the government enhanced PCS Reduction Amount funding by \$20M. This increase means that a total of \$120M in new funding will be allocated for additional teachers to support the PCS initiative in 2007-08. The PCS Reduction per-pupil amount will be raised to \$784 – a 5.2 per cent increase that will support an additional 240 teachers province-wide.

If a school board is already compliant with the PCS standards, it may use this additional funding to address other needs in the elementary panel, such as reducing the number of combined-grade classes or class size in grades 4 to 8; however, the funding must be used in the elementary panel.

As we take the final steps to implement the most significant class size cap in Canada, it is unclear how closely boards will be able to match planning targets with actual class sizes without more significant reorganizations than usual. Because the 2007-08 PCS plans are based on enrolment projections, fluctuations between projected and actual enrolment will naturally occur that will change the class organizations reported in the PCS plans. The Ministry expects that boards will respond to these changes in the best interest of students and while minimizing disruptions to

classroom activities. The new PCS funding should help in this regard. Boards should strive for the primary classes with 20 pupils or fewer to remain reasonably close to the targets reported in the 2007-08 PCS plans. Differences between plan targets and classroom organization will help inform the ministry and the sector about how to modify planning strategies for 2008/09.

Updating 2007-08 Primary Class Size Plans

Boards will be required to submit the PCS results for the 2007-08 school year through the PCS website. This information will be used to monitor compliance with the PCS targets as well as to populate the Class Size Tracker website. More information on reporting the 2007-08 PCS results will be provided in the fall.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact myself or your board's Finance Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark at the end.

Andrew Davis

cc: Superintendents of Business and Finance