

Ministry of Education

Financial Analysis and Accountability
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2015: SB24

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary Treasurers of School Authorities (Isolate Boards)

FROM: Marie Li
Director
Financial Analysis and Accountability Branch

DATE: **September 9, 2015**

SUBJECT: **2015-16 Estimates Forms for School Authorities (Isolate Boards)**

I am pleased to inform you that the 2015-16 Estimates forms and related instructions are available on the Financial Reporting website at <https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab>. From the home page, please click on the Estimates link.

The forms implement changes to the 2015-16 funding model most of which are similar to those provided to district school boards in the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). Details of the funding model are outlined in the Technical Paper, found on the Ministry's public website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>. The Technical Paper – Addendum for School Authorities includes specific funding issues unique to isolate boards.

There are three points of particular note for school authorities:

1. Starting in 2015-16, school authorities will have a new special education funding model for the High Needs Amount (HNA). This new model is outlined in the Addendum.
2. In 2014-15 the government introduced the School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) strategy. One of the main purposes of SBEM is to promote the more efficient use of school space. However, this objective does not align with the situation of school authorities, each of which operates only one school. The SBEM strategy will therefore not apply to school authorities.

3. Under subsection 21(10) of the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act (SBCBA), boards, including the School Authorities (Isolate Boards), are required to pay a fee to a trustees' association that represents the school board. To receive the funding School Authorities (Isolate Boards) need to report the payment in Schedule 10 of the Estimates forms. For further details on the payment and amount, please refer to the instructions document.

The Estimates are due to the Ministry by October 16, 2015. In the event that the Estimates are filed after this date, cash flow penalties may be implemented to reduce the school authority's regular cash flow by 50%. Upon submission of the Estimates, the Ministry will revert back to the normal monthly payment process and will include the total amount withheld up to that point in the monthly payment.

The electronic version of the Estimates and variance report are to be emailed to estimates.met@ontario.ca. Paper documents are no longer required to be mailed to the Ministry. In the same email please include a PDF copy of the Certificate signed by the Chief Executive Officer. Please do not insert any of the attachments on the body of the email. To facilitate the management of our electronic filing boards are asked to include the following text in the subject line of the email "2015-16 Estimates Supporting Documentation – Isolate Boards Name".

If you have any questions related to the completion of the Estimates package, please contact Karyn Morra, at (416) 325-8180 or karyn.morra@ontario.ca.

Original signed by:

Marie Li
Director
Financial Analysis and Accountability Branch

cc: DSAB Supervisory Officers, DSAB External Auditors