

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Mental Health Branch

Direction de la santé mentale

315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

315, rue Front Ouest
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

2022: SB11

Date: March 25, 2022

Memorandum To: Directors of Education

From: Shirley Kendrick
Director
Mental Health Branch

Subject: **\$10 million Student Mental Health Investment Details**

On February 17, 2022, the Ontario government announced over \$90 million in total funding for 2022-23 school year to support student mental health in Ontario. This amount includes a new investment of \$10 million through the Grants for Student Needs to foster the continued learning and well-being of students.

I am writing to provide you with the details of the allocations and funding methodologies for this new investment through the creation of a new Student Mental Well-Being Allocation within the Mental Health and Well-Being Grant to supplement the information contained in the 2022-23 Technical Paper.

Student Mental Well-Being Allocation

This new investment is being provided to support student mental health and well-being in the 2022-23 school year and can be used by school boards to address local priorities in their three-year mental health strategies and one year action plans. This investment is composed of two components as follows:

- Foster the Resilience and Mental Well-Being of All Students component (\$5.0 million for the 2022-23 school year)
This component, funded through a base amount of \$10,000 per district school board and a per-pupil amount of \$2.13, is provided to school boards to foster the resilience and mental well-being of all students through student engagement, staff development, stakeholder

consultation, planning with community child and youth mental health providers, programs and resources. The board-by-board allocations could be found in EFIS.

- Implement Evidence-based Mental Health Programs and Resources component (\$5.0 million for the 2022-23 school year).

This component, funded through a base amount of \$6,000 per district school board and a per-pupil amount of \$2.28 is provided to school boards to implement mental health programs and resources for students who may be struggling with a mild to moderate mental health concern. The board-by-board allocations could be found in EFIS.

The funding formula provides both smaller and larger district school boards with the ability to implement meaningful mental health programs and resources.

Programming is to be delivered by school-based regulated mental health professionals to support students who may be struggling with a mild to moderate mental health concern. Examples of these programs include programs developed or co-developed by School Mental Health Ontario (e.g., Brief Digital Interventions, Brief Clinical Interventions for School Clinicians (BRISC), Supporting Transition Resilience of Newcomer Groups (STRONG) and other programs to be considered for use by school boards (e.g., Cool Kids Anxiety Program, Stop Now And Plan (SNAP)) and resources.

In addition, the ministry is introducing a new Student Mental Health collective envelope consisting of:

- the Supporting Student Mental Health Allocation (*replacing the new enveloping requirement for this individual allocation introduced in the 2022-23 Technical Paper*);
- the new Student Mental Well-Being Allocation; and,
- the Data and Information Collection component of the Mental Health Workers Allocation

The funding allocations/components are limited for use collectively on these programs. Any unspent funding must be reported as deferred revenue for the Student Mental Health collective envelope.

Isolate School Boards Authorities

The ministry will provide further information to isolate board school authorities concerning their 2022–23 Student Mental Well-Being Allocation through an Addendum to the 2022–23 Technical Paper for Isolate Board School Authorities.

In closing, the ministry would like to acknowledge once again the ongoing partnership and continued collaboration from our education partners. We recognize that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on families, students, schools and the broader community. The ministry continues to depend on school boards and other education partners, and their knowledge of

the needs of their communities, to make decisions that best support students and schools. The health, safety, and well-being of our students, families and teachers is of paramount importance.

Thank you once again for the support you provide to students with mental health concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Shirley Kendrick
Director
Mental Health Branch