

**2018: B14**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**FROM:** Bruce Rodrigues  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Education

**DATE:** **August 24, 2018**

**SUBJECT:** **Update: Education Funding for 2018–19**

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I am writing to provide you with an update about education funding for 2018–19. The information included in this memo will provide new information further to memos:

- 2018: B06 – Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for 2018-19;
- 2018: B07 – 2018-19 School Year Education Programs – Other (EPO) funding;
- 2018: SB05 – Cash Management Strategy;
- 2018: SB09 – Grants for Student Needs (GSN) 2018-19, Supports and Updates;
- 2018: SB10 – Special Education Funding in 2018-19; and
- 2018: SB13 – 2018-19 Funding Updates and Estimate Forms for Section 68 School Authorities

**NOTICE:**

Some of the elements and proposals set out in this memo can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Minister of Education or Lieutenant Governor in Council under the *Education Act*. Such regulations have not yet been made. Therefore, the content of this memo should be considered to be subject to such regulations, if and when made.

Total funding for the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) is expected to remain at \$24.5 billion in 2018–19. The average per-pupil funding is projected to be approximately \$12,300. Please see Appendix A for projected board-by-board changes to 2018–19 GSN funding compared to previously announced GSN allocations (2018:B06).

The 2018–19 GSN continues to reflect funding for increased enrolment, ongoing investments to meet prior years' labour agreements, and regular updates to the Grants for Student Needs with the following changes noted in this memo.

Consistent with the government's announcement during the throne speech to reorder Ontario's finances, including a line-by-line review of government spending, all education funding, including what is contained in this memorandum, will be reviewed. As school boards begin planning for the 2019–20 school year, please keep in mind this review will be underway and may impact on-going GSN and/or Education Programs – Other (EPO) funding.

All related GSN release documents will be updated and available in the coming weeks including: the 2018–19 Education Funding Technical Paper; Grants for Student Needs projections for the 2018–19 School Year; 2018–19 Guide to the Grants for Student Needs; Special Education Funding Guidelines: Special Incidence Portion (SIP), 2018–19; and 2018–19 Education Funding: A Guide to the Special Education Grant. Further communication will be sent when these documents are available as well as any transfer payment information for EPO funding outlined in this memo, as well as the Education Finance Information System revised estimates forms.

## **A. New Initiatives and Program Adjustments for 2018–19**

### **Special Education Per-Pupil Amount (\$28M)**

The ministry is investing a projected \$28 million in the GSN to provide an increase to the Special Education Per-Pupil Amount Allocation. Funding will be allocated to school boards by increasing all three Special Education Per-Pupil Amount Allocation benchmarks to the following:

- \$1,007.08 per JK to Grade 3 student;
- \$773.57 per Grade 4 to 8 student; and
- \$510.73 per Grade 9 to 12 student.

This increase will support all students with special education needs including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other needs such as mental health needs.

All 72 boards will see an increase in their Special Education Per-Pupil Amount Allocation funding for 2018–19.

### **Indigenous Graduation Coaches (\$3M)**

The ministry will be launching a \$3 million pilot project through EPO to provide intensive supports to Indigenous learners and their families with the goal of obtaining an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and successful transition into post-secondary education, training or labour market opportunities.

This approach would include an Indigenous graduation coach, whose life experience is deeply rooted in the Indigenous community and holds deep experiential connection to the culture. The coach would act as a mentor and advisor to Indigenous students, facilitating access and referrals to community and school resources to provide integrated support for student achievement and well-being. With the coach as the hub, and community and school resources as the spokes, this 'hub and spoke model' will ease the current fragmentation of service access and delivery to provide holistic and efficient supports to vulnerable students.

A district school board eligibility list will be released in the coming weeks.

## **Rapid Response Northern Schools Teams (RRNSTs) (\$0.8M)**

The ministry is providing \$0.8 million through EPO to support the development of teams to respond to urgent requests made by remote First Nation communities for access to qualified staff that have skills such as early literacy and numeracy, language, and special education qualifications to keep schools open and support the academic success and well-being of students.

Teams will be composed of highly trained and experienced, board-employed, certified educators, administrators and related positions (e.g., social workers, Elders). These Rapid Response Northern Schools Teams would be able to mobilize within a short period of time and stay within the community until stabilization is secured or new teams can be deployed.

## **B. Re-focused Initiatives for 2018–19**

### **Focusing on Fundamental Mathematics (\$55M)**

The ministry is replacing the previously announced \$55 million EPO funding: Renewed Math Strategy with the Focusing on Fundamental Mathematics EPO.

The funding will allow boards to hire mathematics facilitators and leads at the board and school levels for math-related training and support dedicated to teaching fundamental math skills. The funding will also allow boards to provide release-time for educators to participate in training and learning focused on fundamental mathematics.

### **Supporting Students: Career Counselling, Student Mental Health and Well-being (\$46M)**

The ministry is maintaining the projected \$46 million through the GSN (formerly Preparing for Success in High School) in elementary guidance benchmarks; however, school boards have greater flexibility in using this funding to focus on ensuring students and parents are better informed about future options for post-secondary, careers, apprenticeships or trades, and to ensure students have the supports they need to succeed.

Students, parents, educators and stakeholders have indicated that current supports are not sufficient to help students and families make these critical, and often stressful, decisions.

It is important to note that this funding, while generated through Grades 7 and 8 enrolment, can now be used at school boards' discretion to support career counselling as well as student well-being in either the elementary or secondary panel, and student mental health in keeping with the boards' mental health strategy.

### **Expanded Role for Multi-Disciplinary Teams to Include Support for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Special Education Needs (\$52M)**

The \$52 million GSN investment, announced in the 2018–19 GSN memo (2018:B06), for Special Education Multi-Disciplinary Teams and other staffing resources will be

refocused and expanded to include supports for students with special education needs including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other needs such as mental health. Autism is the fastest growing exceptionality in Ontario's publicly funded school system. Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder have a broad range of complex needs and would benefit from increased access to professionals in schools.

This funding continues to support school boards in hiring multi-disciplinary teams which could include Speech-Language Pathologists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Behaviour Experts and others, as appropriate, based on local needs to support all students with special education needs, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other needs such as mental health. The staffing requirements for this funding are unchanged.

## **C. Efficiencies and Redistributions for 2018–19**

### **Special Incidence Portion (SIP) (\$28M)**

The Special Incidence Portion maximum claim amount will be \$27,405, rather than the \$38,016 announced in 2018: B06. Savings incurred from this adjustment will be reinvested into the Special Education Per-Pupil Amount Allocation funding announced earlier in this memo.

### **New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) (\$0.75M)**

The previously announced New Teacher Induction Program increase of \$0.75M has been re-directed to other initiatives. However, school boards retain the flexibility to offer the expanded program to long-term occasional teachers in positions of 80 days or more, as well as supporting any new teacher who falls outside of the New Teacher Induction Program required definition within their first five (5) years of employment.

### **Trustee Honoraria (\$0.6M)**

Compensation adjustments are being suspended until the new government can conduct a review and put in place an appropriate expenditure management strategy. As a result, the ministry will not be increasing the base amount for the school board trustees' honorarium as announced in the 2018–19 GSN memo (2018:B06).

The base amount for district school board trustees will remain at \$5,900. The ministry may review trustee honoraria in the future.

In addition, the ministry will not be providing the trustees of Section 68 School Authorities an honorarium as announced in the 2018–19 Section 68 SB Memo (2018: SB13).

### **Executive Compensation (\$1.7M GSN and \$4.1M EPO)**

The previously announced GSN and EPO funding to support executive compensation increases in the 2018-19 school year has been suspended. The increases introduced in 2017-18 will continue to be provided on an ongoing basis as these increases are now built into school board cost structures.

Adjustments for 2018-19 will no longer be provided through EPO funding or the 2018–19 GSN, through the Senior Administration benchmark for salaries and benefits. As a result, this benchmark will decrease from \$170,430.45 to \$167,912.27.

## Cash Management Strategy – Proceeds of Disposition

In memorandum 2018:B05, the ministry communicated its updated operating cash flow policy and procedures to reduce the associated borrowing costs currently incurred by the Province and to more closely align with the Ontario Public Service cash management directive. The ministry is expanding the cash management strategy to apply to Proceeds of Disposition balances while recognizing the school boards’ needs for renewal and other capital projects. School boards’ funding entitlements will not be affected by this change. Further details on this policy will be released in the coming weeks.

### D. Monthly Payments / Reporting

Cash flow payments will continue to flow based on the submitted school boards’ 2018–19 estimates starting in September. Isolate boards 2018–19 cash flow will be based on the 2017–18 estimates submission until the 2018–19 estimates forms are issued, submitted by the isolate boards and reviewed by the ministry.

As noted earlier in this memo, district school boards will be expected to update their budgets to reflect the changes outlined in this memo through the revised estimates submission process. Payments will be revised upon the review of the submitted revised estimates by the ministry.

### E. Information Resources

If you require further information, please contact:

Subject	Contact	Telephone and email
Executive Compensation	Cheri Hayward	(416) 327-7503 <a href="mailto:cheri.hayward@ontario.ca">cheri.hayward@ontario.ca</a>
Financial Accountability and Reporting Requirements	Med Ahmadoun	(416) 326-0201 <a href="mailto:med.ahmadoun@ontario.ca">med.ahmadoun@ontario.ca</a>
Indigenous Education	Taunya Paquette	(416) 314-5739 <a href="mailto:taunya.paquette@ontario.ca">taunya.paquette@ontario.ca</a>
Operating Funding	Paul Duffy	(416) 325-2035 <a href="mailto:paul.duffy@ontario.ca">paul.duffy@ontario.ca</a>
Special Education	Julie Williams	(416) 325-2889 <a href="mailto:julie.williams@ontario.ca">julie.williams@ontario.ca</a>
Student Achievement	Marg Connor	(416) 325-2564 <a href="mailto:marg.connor@ontario.ca">marg.connor@ontario.ca</a>

General questions regarding the updated 2018–19 Grants for Student Needs can be emailed to: [EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca](mailto:EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca).

## **Conclusion**

The government believes that Ontario students can attain a high level of educational achievement without the previous year-over-year trend of budget inflation. Ontario's government for the people is committed to improving accountability and making efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars — and we will be looking to our partners in the education sector to help find efficiencies.

Original signed by

Bruce Rodrigues  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Education

cc: School business officials

## Appendix A: 2018-19 GSN Impacts

Board Name	Efficiencies and Redistributions for Special Incidence Portion (\$28M)	Special Education Per-Pupil Amount (SEPPA) (\$28M)	SEPPA DEA Impact (\$0.05M)	Efficiencies and Redistributions for NTIP Investment (\$0.75M)	Efficiencies and Redistributions for Trustee Honorarium Investment (\$0.3M)	Efficiencies and Redistributions for Executive Compensation (\$1.7M)
DSB Ontario North East	(241,762)	86,924	-	(2,281)	(4,400)	(18,821)
Algoma DSB	(456,666)	123,275	1,783	(1,203)	(4,400)	(19,266)
Rainbow DSB	(1,493,400)	170,588	4,629	(4,774)	(3,600)	(20,029)
Near North DSB	(332,177)	131,532	1,817	(4,591)	(3,600)	(16,711)
Keewatin-Patricia DSB	(80,576)	69,265	-	(3,330)	(4,400)	(20,705)
Rainy River DSB	-	30,253	436	(1,039)	(2,800)	(14,129)
Lakehead DSB	(294,750)	119,068	662	(3,349)	(3,200)	(16,995)
Superior-Greenstone DSB	-	16,023	635	(731)	(3,600)	(13,154)
Bluewater DSB	(135,192)	232,307	-	(9,528)	(4,000)	(17,735)
Avon Maitland DSB	(10,611)	208,322	848	(1,867)	(3,600)	(21,745)
Greater Essex County DSB	(17,720)	492,059	6,336	(3,609)	(4,000)	(24,028)
Lambton Kent DSB	(40,410)	293,476	1,304	(5,361)	(4,400)	(19,073)
Thames Valley DSB	(318,330)	1,090,927	-	(39,709)	(5,200)	(39,995)
Toronto DSB	(1,835,703)	3,449,052	-	(92,410)	(8,800)	(105,883)
Durham DSB	(1,168,439)	988,812	-	(34,560)	(4,400)	(36,004)
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB	(432,300)	454,926	-	(9,614)	(4,400)	(23,092)
Trillium Lakelands DSB	(186,675)	222,323	2,980	(2,675)	(3,600)	(19,277)
York Region DSB	(870,102)	1,701,004	-	(34,868)	(4,800)	(55,797)
Simcoe County DSB	(420,770)	729,428	-	(16,678)	(4,800)	(32,575)
Upper Grand DSB	(943,200)	482,030	-	(14,041)	(4,000)	(23,487)
Peel DSB	(3,057,239)	2,221,807	-	(35,349)	(4,800)	(72,692)
Halton DSB	(489,739)	895,397	-	(38,159)	(4,400)	(33,455)
Hamilton-Wentworth DSB	(354,615)	702,324	-	(16,659)	(4,400)	(29,135)
DSB of Niagara	(243,660)	511,623	-	(3,705)	(4,400)	(24,598)
Grand Erie DSB	(58,361)	357,678	1,111	(8,652)	(4,400)	(20,707)
Waterloo Region DSB	(46,512)	889,463	-	(18,218)	(4,400)	(33,704)
Ottawa-Carleton DSB	(903,900)	1,005,807	-	(38,323)	(4,800)	(38,673)
Upper Canada DSB	(108,432)	362,222	-	(6,823)	(4,400)	(23,216)
Limestone DSB	(157,200)	266,371	-	(2,541)	(3,600)	(19,282)
Renfrew County DSB	(196,500)	123,386	-	(1,521)	(3,200)	(15,970)
Hastings and Prince Edward DSB	(58,950)	207,682	-	(3,003)	(4,000)	(17,773)
Northeastern Catholic DSB	(19,650)	32,233	174	(173)	(3,600)	(14,096)
Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic DSB	(396,820)	34,704	658	(991)	(2,800)	(12,675)
Huron-Superior Catholic DSB	(707,400)	63,753	342	(597)	(4,000)	(17,026)
Sudbury Catholic DSB	(314,400)	82,962	-	(895)	(2,400)	(14,597)
Northwest Catholic DSB	-	20,581	-	(1,213)	(3,600)	(14,096)
Kenora Catholic DSB	(21,222)	18,298	579	(529)	(2,800)	(13,464)
Thunder Bay Catholic DSB	(753,264)	105,449	413	(1,367)	(2,800)	(15,545)
Superior North Catholic DSB	-	9,863	430	(1,011)	(3,600)	(17,511)

Board Name	Efficiencies and Redistributions for Special Incidence Portion (\$28M)	Special Education Per-Pupil Amount (SEPPA) (\$28M)	SEPPA DEA Impact (\$0.05M)	Efficiencies and Redistributions for NTIP Investment (\$0.75M)	Efficiencies and Redistributions for Trustee Honorarium Investment (\$0.3M)	Efficiencies and Redistributions for Executive Compensation (\$1.7M)
Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB	(31,833)	59,533	-	(3,638)	(2,800)	(18,336)
Huron-Perth Catholic DSB	-	64,110	-	(2,079)	(2,000)	(18,262)
Windsor-Essex Catholic DSB	(21,222)	269,017	3,611	(2,435)	(3,600)	(18,360)
London District Catholic School Board	(127,045)	276,237	-	(8,036)	(3,200)	(23,346)
St. Clair Catholic DSB	-	122,789	-	(3,609)	(2,800)	(19,595)
Toronto Catholic DSB	(854,199)	1,263,977	-	(36,417)	(4,800)	(43,709)
Peterborough V N C Catholic DSB	(661,419)	211,453	-	(4,899)	(2,800)	(16,827)
York Catholic DSB	(825,300)	713,696	17,373	(28,304)	(4,000)	(34,351)
Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB	(817,047)	1,074,540	-	(25,686)	(4,400)	(40,000)
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB	(167,025)	297,831	-	(2,714)	(3,200)	(20,178)
Durham Catholic DSB	(746,700)	293,461	-	(4,571)	(3,200)	(23,720)
Halton Catholic DSB	(510,900)	480,880	-	(18,170)	(4,400)	(28,426)
Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic DSB	(440,799)	397,096	-	(7,045)	(3,600)	(21,710)
Wellington Catholic DSB	(106,110)	108,138	1,346	(1,896)	(2,400)	(19,287)
Waterloo Catholic DSB	(44,488)	322,597	-	(11,058)	(3,600)	(19,344)
Niagara Catholic DSB	(47,160)	287,141	6,053	(2,165)	(3,200)	(18,853)
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB	-	136,754	-	(4,725)	(2,400)	(15,284)
Catholic DSB of Eastern Ontario	(667,081)	174,233	1,248	(1,222)	(2,800)	(17,278)
Ottawa Catholic DSB	(490,189)	590,097	-	(15,928)	(4,000)	(26,464)
Renfrew County Catholic DSB	-	71,795	-	(1,290)	(2,800)	(13,865)
Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic DSB	(235,800)	160,931	-	(5,794)	(4,000)	(17,085)
CSD du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	(379,183)	33,503	-	(2,021)	(4,800)	(15,481)
CSD du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	(157,751)	35,853	-	(1,136)	(4,800)	(15,377)
Conseil scolaire Viamonde	(98,250)	185,165	-	(16,380)	(4,800)	(25,776)
CSD des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	-	229,772	-	(13,108)	(4,800)	(19,980)
CSD catholique des Grandes Rivières	(629,234)	82,582	-	(635)	(4,000)	(17,827)
CSD catholique Franco-Nord	(615,438)	39,433	-	(885)	(2,400)	(13,208)
CSD catholique du Nouvel-Ontario	(392,607)	95,510	-	(3,734)	(4,800)	(19,621)
CSD catholique des Aurores boréales	(13,126)	12,153	-	(1,713)	(4,800)	(18,520)
CS catholique Providence	-	149,163	-	(8,402)	(4,400)	(24,257)
CS catholique MonAvenir	(393,000)	253,285	-	(18,613)	(4,800)	(26,532)
CSD catholique de l'Est ontarien	(839,055)	144,557	-	(4,648)	(3,200)	(15,514)
CSD catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario	(737,661)	358,310	-	(21,077)	(4,400)	(20,424)

- Does not include impacts from EPO or School Authorities
- Figures may not add due to rounding