**LDAO SEAC Update on Education Funding**

April 29, 2019

On Friday the Ministry of Education released further information on funding for 2019-20. You can read all the memos at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html>. The Technical Paper will be released later.

In the **Grants for Student Needs (GSN),** which comprises most of education funding, **Special Education funding** appears to remain unchanged from last year, except for an increase in the **Behaviour Expertise Amount.** You can read more details in:

Memorandum 2019 B14: [Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Funding for 2019-20](https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2019/B14_EN.pdf)

The new **Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF)** replaces the previous **Education Programs – Other** funding. Under Special Education are listed:

* *After School Skills Development Program ($6.1M)*
* *Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with ASD ($0.374M)*
* *Transition Pilot for Students with Developmental Disabilities ($0.478M)*
* *Supporting Students with Severe Learning Disabilities (LD) in Reading through LD Pilots ($1.75M)*

You can read more details in these and other areas in the excerpted sections below, and the details on all the areas covered in: Memorandum 2019 B15: [PPF Funding for 2019-20](https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2019/B15_EN.pdf)

 **Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Funding for 2019–20 (Excerpt)**

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education, Senior Business Officials, Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour and Finance Division

DATE: April 26, 2019

SUBJECT: **Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Funding for 2019–20**

GSN funding for 2019–20 is projected to be $24.66 billion. The average provincial per-pupil funding is projected to be $12,246 in 2019–20.

The government is committed to investments that have the greatest impact on the classroom, while ensuring tax dollars are used more effectively. Ten of the thirteen special purpose grants are either maintained or increasing from 2018–19 funding levels. These include, for example, Indigenous Education, Special Education, Languages, Geographic Circumstances, Safe and Accepting Schools, and Student Transportation.

B. SPECIAL EDUCATION

Behaviour Expertise Amount: $15.2 million

The ministry is investing $15.2 million in the Behaviour Expertise Amount allocation, an increase of approximately one hundred per cent over 2018–19. This investment will allow school boards to hire more professional staff at the board level who have expertise in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and to double the training opportunities that will build school board capacity in A

This investment will increase the:

• ABA Expertise Professionals Amount to a total of $24.4 million; and the

• ABA Training Amount to a total of $6.0 million.

For greater clarity, the ministry wishes to confirm that there will be no changes to the remaining grants and allocations in the Grants for Student Needs not identified in this memo. The stability in this funding should allow school boards to finalize their staffing plans for the 2019–20 school year with minimal changes.

GSN projections for the 2019–20 school year are available on the ministry’s website. All other GSN materials will be available in the coming weeks, including the 2019–20 Education Funding Technical Paper.

**2019: B15 (Excerpts)**

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

FROM: Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister

DATE: April 25, 2019

SUBJECT: **2019-20 Priorities and Partnerships Fund**

The Ministry of Education is pleased to launch the new Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF).

On March 15, 2019, the government released Memo 2019:B08 Education that Works for You, the new vision for Ontario’s education system. The vision will be implemented using a responsible approach that will modernize education to maximize student performance and well-being.

The PPF is being launched in alignment with this year’s Budget and supports Ontario’s new vision for education. The approach will prioritize education funding, supplemental to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), on high impact initiatives that directly support students in the classroom. The funding will replace the previous Education Programs – Other funding and will be evidence-based and outcome-focused while providing streamlined, accountable, and time-limited funding that will be reviewed and assessed by the Ministry each year.

**Engaging Parents and Communities**

Parents Reaching Out Grants ($1.25M)

These grants will support parents in identifying barriers and opportunities to strengthen parent engagement in their own communities and enable more parents to support their child’s learning and well-being.

**Mental Health and Well-Being**

Well-Being and Mental Health Bundle ($3M)

Funding to support school boards and authorities to meet local needs and priorities that promote well-being and mental health, including safe, healthy, inclusive and accepting learning environments. This funding enables school boards and authorities to support activities in their improvement and multi-year strategic plans, as well as their three year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, and annual Action Plan for Mental Health.

Mental Health Workers in Secondary Schools ($25M)

In keeping with the government’s commitment to invest in mental health and addictions services in Ontario, in 2019-20 the province will continue to fund the approximately 180 new mental health workers (FTEs) in secondary schools that were initially hired by district school boards in 2018-19. The purpose of this investment is to continue to have regulated mental health professionals (e.g., social workers, psychologists and psychotherapists) with specialized training in student mental health in secondary schools, providing mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention to students and their families.

This continuing investment will also include annual funding of $50,000 per school board to support the collection and use of data and information to determine the impact of the initiative on students, families, and schools.

School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) ($6.5M)

As part of the government’s commitment to build a comprehensive and connected multi-year mental health and addiction system across the lifespan, funding for School Mental Health Ontario (SMH ON), formerly School Mental Health ASSIST, will continue. SMH ON will receive $6.5M in 2019-20 to provide implementation support to all 72 district school boards through clinical expertise, evidence-based resources/practical tools for educators, and the delivery of consistent professional learning to school-based mental health clinicians, including the new mental health workers in secondary schools.

**Special Education**

After School Skills Development Program ($6.1M)

The After School Skills Development Program will provide funding to all school boards in the province to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in social, communication, self-regulation and life-planning skills development.

Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with ASD ($0.374M)

Continuation of funding to support the provision of dedicated space on school site for external Applied Behaviour Analyst (ABA) practitioners to provide direct service to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in eleven pilot school boards.

Transition Pilot for Students with Developmental Disabilities ($0.478M)

Pilot to support select school boards to explore successful practices in transitioning students with developmental disabilities to work, community or postsecondary education.

Supporting Students with Severe Learning Disabilities (LD) in Reading through LD Pilots ($1.75M)

Funding to support an intensive reading intervention pilot project in eight district school boards. Pilots were designed to enhance educators’ intervention pilot project in eight district (LD) and increase the availability of supports for students with LD in their local communities.