**Special Education Funding 2018-19 Summary**

**Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for 2018–19**

**A. Special Education**

**Addressing Waitlists for Assessments and Increasing Services**

The ministry is investing nearly $300 million over the next three school years to provide school boards with funding to address current waitlists for special education assessments and increase programs and services for students with special education needs. This investment will include two parts:

* $125 million in EPO funding to address current waitlists for assessments over the next three school years. Further details will be provided to school boards in the 2018–19 School Year Education Programs – Other (EPO) Funding B-Memo.\*
* Over $170 million in funding, over the next three years, to be allocated through the Special Education Grant, which will support increased special education programs and services. This includes:
* Funding for a multi-disciplinary team or equivalent for all boards (four additional FTEs per school board) to build board capacity and help teachers, education assistants, and other staff better understand and adapt to the unique needs of their students;
* Funding for other staffing resources to support students with special education needs; and
* Funding to build capacity and provide direct support to students with special education needs in recognition of the increase in demand for services. This investment will provide for a total of approximately 600 additional FTEs in the province by 2019-20. *See Appendix B for board-by-board allocations.*

Further details regarding the implementation of this investment and reporting requirements will be communicated at a later date.

**Special Incidence Portion (SIP)**

The ministry is investing an additional $30 million in the next school year to support students with extraordinary high needs to be successful in school. This increase in the SIP allocation supports the staffing costs associated with addressing the health and safety needs of these students and others in their school. The maximum SIP amount per eligible claim will increase by over 40 per cent from $27,000 to $38,016 and will be adjusted annually to reflect salary benchmark increases going forward.

**Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA)**

Starting in 2018–19, the Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA) Allocation will have a new component: the Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Training Amount ($3 million). This funding was previously provided to school boards through the Autism Supports and Training Allocation in EPO. As such, beginning in 2018–19 the BEA Allocation will have two components:

1. Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Expertise Professionals Amount; and
2. ABA Training Amount

**Facilities Amount Name Change**

Beginning in 2018–19, the Facilities Amount will be renamed to Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional Amount (“CTCC Amount”). The CTCC Amount is provided to approved district school boards to support education programs in care and/or treatment, custody and correctional facilities. Renaming this funding amount will more accurately reflect the intention of the funds, and make the naming consistent with ministry program documentation as well as district school board language.

**In addition (not under Special Education Grant):**

**Local Priorities Funding**

The ministry established a Local Priorities Fund (LPF) in 2017–18 to address a range of local priorities and needs. This may include more special education staffing to support children in need, “at-risk” students and adult education. In 2018–19, the LPF amount will be $235 million. The LPF requirements will continue in 2018–19, as per the extension agreements.

**\* Other (EPO) Funding B-Memo 2018-19**

**R. Supporting Special Education Assessments ($20.0M)**

Over the next three school years, the ministry is providing approximately $125 million in application-based EPO funding to address current waitlists for assessments, beginning with a projected $20 million in 2018-19. The ministry will engage in ongoing, focused conversations with school boards about their assessment and program/service needs. The focus will be on building capacity and/or developing local approaches for boards to be better positioned to provide timely, responsive assessments, programs and services on a regular basis. Further details will be provided at a later date.