

## **Special Equipment Amount (SEA)**

Beginning in 2010-11 the SEA allocation would be made up of two components: a **SEA Per Pupil Amount** and a **SEA Claims-Based Amount**.

The new **SEA Per Pupil Amount** would be part of a 5-year plan to provide boards with greater flexibility and predictability by converting part of the SEA allocation (approximately 85% of funds) into a single SEA Per Pupil Amount for all school boards by 2014-15.

The SEA Per Pupil Amount responds to feedback the Ministry has heard from school boards regarding greater flexibility for SEA purchases, and to the results of a review of the SEA allocation that was conducted in 2009. The SEA Per Pupil Amount would allow school boards to seek efficiencies and optimize effectiveness in the purchase of all computers, software, computing related devices, and required supporting furniture, as identified for use by students with special education needs in accordance with the proposed 2010-11 SEA Funding Guidelines. This would give school boards the opportunity to make bulk purchases, acquire board licenses and to establish purchasing consortia. The new SEA Per Pupil Amount would help school boards in providing training for staff and students (where applicable), equipment set-up, maintenance, and repair as determined by the board for *all* SEA equipment, including SEA equipment funded through the SEA Claims-Based Amount. Technicians and training costs would no longer be submitted through the SEA claims process.

The calculation for the SEA Per Pupil Amount would transition school boards from a 2010-11 school board-specific per pupil amount that is based primarily on each board's historical access to SEA funding, to a single provincial per pupil amount by 2014-15. In 2010-11 each school board would receive the SEA Per Pupil Amount, comprised of a base of \$10,000 plus an allocation based on a board-specific per pupil amount. It is anticipated that by 2014-15 the SEA Per Pupil Amount would consist of a base of \$10,000 for each school board plus an allocation based on a provincial per pupil amount. Further details regarding each board's SEA Per Pupil Amount allocation would be shared with individual boards this spring.

It is intended that this 5-year plan to convert part of SEA into a single provincial SEA Per Pupil Amount would be used to ensure that total provincial funding for SEA is increased by approximately 7% per year. In addition, the SEA Per Pupil Amount would: provide school boards with greater flexibility to meet students' needs; phase-in a simpler funding process that reduces administrative burden; provide funding in a predictable manner; provide greater equity among all school boards; balance appropriate processes and documentation with less administrative burden; and maintain approximately 15% of all SEA funds on a claims-based process which ensures continued support for special equipment needs that are not computer/technology related.

The **SEA Claims-Based Amount** would continue to support the purchases of noncomputer based equipment to be utilized by students with special education needs, including sensory equipment, hearing support equipment, vision support equipment, personal care support equipment and physical assists support equipment. This component of the SEA allocation would continue to be claim-based with an \$800 deductible.

As you know, SEA funding is intended to assist with the costs of equipment essential to support students with special education needs. It is still expected that boards would develop an internal process that allocates the SEA Per Pupil Amount, the SEA Claims- Based Amount and a board internal contribution to support student needs in an equitable and timely fashion. Details

regarding eligibility for purchases with the SEA Per Pupil Amount as well as the SEA Claims Based Amount would be set out in the SEA Funding Guidelines, *Special Education Funding Guidelines, Special Equipment Amount* (SEA), 2010-11.

Financial reporting to the Ministry would be changed to reflect the new SEA Per Pupil Amount. Expenditures related to the SEA Per Pupil Amount would be reported separately from all other special education expenditures. It would be required that any unused SEA Per Pupil funding must be placed in a SEA reserved fund/deferred revenue to support future spending on all computers, software, computing related devices and required supporting furniture identified for use by students with special education needs, as well as all training and technician costs for all SEA equipment.

*Special Education Funding for 2010-11*

*Memorandum 2010:SB17 from Barry Finlay & Julie Williams April 12, 2010*