



REPORT TO

CORPORATE AFFAIRS, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

2015-16 GRANTS FOR STUDENT NEEDS OVERVIEW

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"
Colossians 3:23

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P. De Cock, Comptroller of Business Services & Finance		
INFORMATION REPORT		

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a brief overview of the Ministry of Education's recent 2015-16 Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) Overview shared with Board's senior staff at regional sessions. In summary, the changes to GSNs strive to provide Boards with incentives by way of funding reductions to close/consolidate small schools and provide additional funding to plan and facilitate consolidations and right-sizing of school facilities.

B. PURPOSE

1. The changes to the 2015-16 GSNs provide incentives for closing/consolidating small schools by reducing the funding support for small schools and its funded staffing allocation.
2. The reduction to funding further reduces the TCDSB's capacity to reallocate flexible funding to cover areas where expenditures exceed the grant entitlement, i.e. Special Education and Transportation Services.

C. BACKGROUND

1. TCDSB Senior Staff attended the Regional Session for the Toronto Region on April 21st 2015.
2. The Ministry of Education staff provided an interactive overview of the 2015-16 Grants for Student Needs (Appendix A).

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Making more efficient use of school space by closing/consolidating small schools is key message, and the resulting changes to the GSNs will be phased in over a period of three years (Appendix A, pg.7).
2. More funding for building planning capacity will be provided to support the consolidation and right-sizing of school facilities (Appendix A, pg.7).
3. Phase-out of base top-up funding for school operations over 3 years, approximately \$5.1M in 2014-15, will eliminate this expenditure category's

ability to cover the operating deficit in the area of transportation services (Appendix A, pg.17).

4. Funding increased for increased costs in the areas of transportation, commodities such as natural gas, electricity and insurance (Appendix A, pgs.21-23).
5. Funding provided to School Boards to match their required payment to their Employer Bargaining Agent, i.e. O.C.S.T.A.
6. Despite the increased funding for costs, all changes to the GSNs year-over-year amounts to overall reduction in GSNs by 0.08% (Appendix A, pg.26).
7. The School Foundation Grant scales funding for Principal and Vice-Principal Positions. This scaling effectively increases the threshold at which there is full funding for a full-time equivalent Principal position, i.e. 50 vs 150+ADE for an Elementary Principal and 50 vs 200+ADE for a Secondary Principal (Appendix A, pg.34 & 35).
8. Support Staff is similarly scaled by increasing the threshold at which there is full funding for full-time equivalent position, i.e. 1 vs 100+ADE for an office support staff (Appendix A, pg.34 & 36).

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.