

Ministry of Education

Education Labour and Finance Division
11th Floor
315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation

Division des relations de travail et du
financement en matière d'éducation
11^e étage
315, rue Front Street West,
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

**2019: B14**

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*

As a follow-up to the Ministry of Education's memorandum, *2019:B08 Education that Works for You*, I am writing to provide you with further information about the Ministry of Education's 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.

The 2019–20 GSN also reflects funding for increased enrolment, ongoing investments to meet labour agreements, and regular updates to the GSN.

A. CLASS SIZE AND ATTRITION PROTECTION: (\$214 Million)

Class Size

As indicated in 2019:B08, the ministry shared proposed changes to class sizes effective for the 2019–20 school year and also launched the next [consultation phase](#) on class size inviting partners to continue this important dialogue ending on May 31, 2019.

To support board planning, the table below re-summarizes the proposed changes, subject to ongoing consultations, labour negotiations and potential legislative changes.

Description	Funded	Regulated
Kindergarten	UNCHANGED - Funded average class size remains at 25.57. Funded Early Childhood Educators (ECE) classroom staffing ratio change from 1.14 FTE to 1.0 FTE; Ministry will provide a new per-pupil amount of \$87.32 per average daily enrolment (ADE) in the Pupil Foundation Grant to support ECE supply costs.	UNCHANGED - Maximum board-wide average remains at 26.0 with a hard cap of 29 (flexibility for 10% of classes to be up to 32 if purpose-built accommodation is not available (this exception will sunset after 2021–2022); if a program will be negatively affected (e.g., French immersion; or where compliance will increase kindergarten/Grade 1 combined classes).
Primary (Grades 1 to 3)	UNCHANGED - Funded average class size remains at 19.8.	UNCHANGED - Board-wide cap remains at 20.0 (flexibility for 10% of classes to be up to 23).
Intermediate (Grades 4 to 8)	Funded average class size adjusted from 23.84 to 24.5.	Maximum board-wide average adjusted to 24.5 for all school boards.
Secondary (Grades 9 to 12)	Funded average class size adjusted from 22.0 to 28.0.	Maximum board-wide average adjusted to 28.0.

Other Impacts Resulting from Class Size Changes

- The secondary programming amount of 1.02 staff per 1,000 ADE will no longer be provided, effective September 2019. It is projected that the impact of removing the secondary programming amount from the Pupil Foundation Grant will be approximately \$52 million; this amount is included in the estimated class size impact for the 2019–20 school year, along with other related impacts.
- The Supported Schools Allocation benchmarks are being updated to reflect the changes to class size.

- To align with the proposed changes to secondary class size and to reflect other data updates, the Supplementary Area Factor for school facility operations, within the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant, will be updated. These changes would be phased in over five years. Additional details will be provided in a subsequent memorandum.

Attrition Protection

The ministry is introducing a new Attrition Protection Allocation (within the Cost Adjustment and Qualifications and Experience Grant) for up to four years to protect front-line staff impacted by the proposed changes to class sizes and e-learning; allowing school boards to phase in the proposed class sizes.

Through this four-year attrition protection, funding will be provided to top-up school boards where the change in funded classroom teachers exceeds the actual attrition and other voluntary leaves. Information on how this is calculated will be available in EFIS.

With this support in place, it is expected that school boards will not lay-off teachers associated with the proposed changes to class sizes and e-learning.

Other key elements of the attrition protection funding include:

- **School board forecast protection** to address situations where actual attrition is higher than the school board's forecasts; and,
- **An additional 5 per cent attrition protection** to further support the staffing complement for the continuity of STEM and specialized programming. This means boards are being provided with 105 per cent attrition protection funding.

For more information, please refer to 2019: SB02 *Key Planning Details for Attrition Protection*.

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 ABA.

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.

C. OTHER GRANTS FOR STUDENT NEEDS FUNDING CHANGES

There will also be changes made to the GSN in the following areas:

Local Priorities Fund (LPF)

The LPF, first established in 2017–18 during the last round of collective bargaining, expires on August 31, 2019. Whether the funding for staffing is extended is an issue subject to the upcoming central collective bargaining process.

The investments related to adult day school teachers will be transferred to the Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant.

Cost Adjustment Allocation – Base Amount: (\$36 Million)

The base amount of the Cost Adjustment Allocation, providing supplemental funding for education worker benchmarks, has been discontinued for the 2019–20 school year.

Human Resource Transition Supplement: (\$10 Million)

The Human Resource Transition Supplement, provided to assist school boards in managing the negotiated 2017–19 central collective agreements, expires on August 31, 2019.

D. CAPITAL

Details of all capital funding programs, including board-by-board allocations, will be provided in the coming weeks in a separate memorandum.

School Renewal Funding

For the 2019–20 school year, the ministry continues to invest \$1.4 billion in funding to support the repair and renewal of school facilities. This includes:

- School Condition Improvement (SCI): \$1 billion in funding towards SCI, which will allow boards to revitalize and renew aged building components that have exceeded or will exceed their useful life.
- School Renewal Allocation (SRA): An additional \$40 million in capital funding towards SRA, which will allow boards to address the renewal needs of their schools and undertake capital improvements to older buildings.

Investments in school renewal will allow school boards to continue to address facility condition, provide healthy and safe learning environments, and address energy efficiency and accessibility requirements of their school facilities.

Update on School Construction Programs

Further details regarding the launch of the next round of Capital Priorities including child care, will be included in a separate memorandum to follow.

E. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Stabilization funding will be provided to school boards that run efficient transportation operations but for which the costs of student transportation exceed the funding provided for that purpose. This funding will be provided in 2019–20 based on boards' 2018–19 transportation deficits while the Ministry of Education undertakes a review of the student transportation funding formula in order to achieve a more efficient and accountable student transportation system in Ontario.

F. KEEPING UP WITH COSTS: \$52 Million

The GSN has been updated to assist school boards in managing increases to transportation, electricity, and other non-staff school operations costs. In 2019–20, the projected investment is \$52 million:

- The Student Transportation Grant will be increased by 4 per cent to help boards manage increased costs. As in previous years, this update will be netted against a school board's transportation surplus. In addition, funding adjustments due to fuel price changes will continue to be triggered by the fuel escalation and de-escalation mechanism throughout the school year.
- The ministry will also provide a 2 per cent cost benchmark update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs).

G. ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION AND OTHER CHANGES

In 2019–20, the ministry will continue to implement GSN reforms that began in prior years. A list of these reforms as well as other in-year changes can be found below.

School Foundation Grant (SFG) Definition Change Funding Impacts

This is the third year of a four-year phase-in of the funding impacts of the new SFG definition of a school, based on campus. A campus is defined as property or properties which are owned, leased or rented by a school board, that are linked by a contiguous property line. This change includes funding impacts on other grants in the GSN that are based on the SFG definition of a school.

Retirement Gratuities

This is the eighth year of a 12 year phase-out of the retirement gratuities resulting in a reduction in the benefits funding benchmarks. This 0.167 per cent reduction will be applied to the benefits benchmarks in the Foundation Grants with equivalent adjustments to the benchmarks in the Special Purpose Grants to reflect the reduction in benefits funding.

For school boards that provided one-time payouts of retirement gratuities in 2015–16, funding will continue to be recovered from school boards in 2019–20. This recovery, which began in 2016–17, will be over the number of years' equivalent to the estimated average remaining service life of school board employees eligible for retirement gratuities as at August 31, 2012. The funding recovered from school boards will be to the extent that school boards received funding from the ministry and to the extent that boards reported a one-time gain in the early payout of retirement gratuities in 2015–16.

Salary Increases

The ministry will provide a 1 per cent salary benchmark increase for staff¹ in 2019–20, to reflect the 2017–19 central labour agreements.

Reciprocal Education Approach (REA)

As you know, the ministry continues to engage with the Education Service Agreement and Reverse Education Service Agreement (ESA/RESA) Working Group regarding the REA. This approach is intended to improve access and reduce barriers for First Nation students who wish to attend First Nation schools or provincially funded schools, and for students transitioning between school systems.

The focus of this work over the coming months is the development of a regulatory framework to support the legislative amendments made to the *Education Act* in April 2018. These amendments and related regulatory changes will come into effect September 1, 2019. More details will be communicated in the coming months.

As we move forward with the proposed regulatory amendments to implement the REA, we continue to strongly encourage school boards to begin discussions with First Nation communities and education authorities interested in developing ESAs and/or RESAs.

For planning purposes, school boards should also be mindful that if there is sufficient demand expressed (i.e., a minimum number of pupils enroll in the course) the ministry expects that school boards will offer Indigenous languages and studies courses (which are funded through the Pupil Foundation and the Indigenous Education Grants within the GSN).

Rural and Northern Education Funding (RNEF) – Schools List

As a reminder, school boards continue to be required to spend RNEF funding using the List of Schools Eligible for Rural and Northern Education Fund Allocation:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html>. School boards may modify this list by passing a board motion.

School boards must submit to the ministry, by June 14, 2019, the list of all the additional schools approved by board motion. Please submit these board motions along with the list of these additional schools to EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca, including the school

¹ Does not include directors of education or senior administration staff. Funding for principal and vice-principal salary increases are provided separately. More details will be available in the Technical Paper.

name, School Facilities Inventory System (SFIS) number, Campus ID, Board School Identification number (BSID) and panel (elementary/secondary). **Please include “RNEF” in the subject line of your email.**

For more information on any of these items, please refer to the Technical Paper, available soon on the ministry’s website.

H. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECOVERY AMOUNT (ISRA)

Beginning in 2019–20, a school board’s total GSN operating grants shall be reduced by an amount equal to a flat fee of \$1,300 multiplied by the international student enrolment, pro-rated where the students are not full-time.

School boards continue to be responsible for setting tuition fee amounts for international students per the tuition fees regulation which sets the minimum amount that must be charged to non-resident students.

I. MODERNIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

The government is committed to ensuring that every dollar spent in the classroom is having the greatest impact on student achievement. This involves looking at all aspects of the education system, including school board operations, while respecting the four publicly funded education systems in Ontario. The Ministry of Education will be undertaking a thorough review of how boards can conduct their operations in the most efficient manner to best serve students and parents while ensuring their long-term sustainability. This process will be kicked off by the creation of a minister’s task force. The government looks forward to engaging with experts and education partners in this important conversation.

J. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

As in previous years, funding for school authorities will be adjusted in 2019–20, as appropriate, to reflect changes in funding to district school boards. The ministry will provide further information concerning funding in 2019–20 for school authorities in the near future.

K. OTHER GRANTS

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.

L. 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.

M. REPORTING

Dates for Submission of Financial Reports

The ministry has established the following dates for submission of financial reports:

Date	Description
June 28, 2019	Board Estimates for 2019–20 <i>Please advise your ministry finance officer, as soon as possible, if you would like to take advantage of a 4-week extension (until July 24, 2019) to submit.</i>
November 15, 2019	Board Financial Statements for 2018–19
November 22, 2019	Board Enrolment Projections for 2020–21 to 2023–24
December 13, 2019	Board Revised Estimates for 2019–20
May 15, 2020	Board Financial Report for September 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020

The ministry expects that Estimates forms will be available in EFIS by May 9, 2019.

N. INFORMATION RESOURCES

If you require further information, please contact:

Subject	Contact	Telephone and email
Benefits Transformation and Retirement Gratuities	Romina Di Pasquale	(416) 903-9479 romina.diPasquale@ontario.ca
Capital Policies	Colleen Hogan	(416) 325-1705 colleen.hogan@ontario.ca
Capital Priorities and Project Accountability	Paul Bloye	(416) 325-8589 paul.bloye@ontario.ca
Financial Accountability and Reporting Requirements	Med Ahmadoun	(416) 326-0201 med.ahmadoun@ontario.ca
Indigenous Education	Taunya Paquette	(647) 290-7142 taunya.paquette@ontario.ca
Operating Funding	Doreen Lamarche	(416) 326-0999 doreen.lamarche@ontario.ca
Special Education	Claudine Munroe	(416) 325-2889 claudine.munroe@ontario.ca
Student Transportation	Cheri Hayward	(416) 327-7503 cheri.hayward@ontario.ca

General questions regarding the 2019–20 GSN release can be emailed to:
EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca.

Other GSN Materials

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. Further communication will be sent to inform school boards of the documents' availability.

Original signed by

Andrew Davis
Assistant Deputy Minister
Education Labour and Finance Division

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2K8**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

438, avenue University, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2K8**2019: B15**

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.

On April 11, 2019, the government tabled its 2019 Budget. This year's budget reflects the outcomes of a comprehensive multi-year planning process that's built on the findings of EY Canada's line-by-line review, and the ideas identified in the Planning for Prosperity Survey and the Big Bold Ideas Challenge. The government conducted a thorough review of all government programs in order to ensure investments are sustainable and modernized. The review is also meant to ensure that duplication is eliminated, and valuable programs and services are sustainable and delivering outcomes for the people of Ontario.

In addition to this review, all ministries were required to identify administrative savings. This was to be done by identifying opportunities to modernize services in order to reduce administrative costs and burden, while improving services across ministries, agencies and transfer-payment partners. Ministries considered how they could eliminate duplicative and non-value added processes, and implement automation and other streamlining solutions where repetitive and routine tasks existed previously.

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.

Funding

For 2019-20 the PPF will provide up to \$330 million in funding to education partners to support students.

To facilitate school boards’ budget planning for 2019-20, today the Ministry is confirming approximately \$185 million of PPF funding to school boards and school authorities to support Ministry priorities. The program allocations are outlined in the following table and school board allocations will follow:

Key Priority	Objective	Amount (\$M)
Curriculum Implementation	To support school boards with the implementation of recently released curriculum	\$2.25M
Engaging Parents and Communities	To involve parents and communities in their children’s education. Parents are a child’s first teacher. When parents are involved everyone benefits – schools become better places to learn and student performance improves	\$1.25M
French-Language Education	To provide opportunities and tailored supports to students in Ontario’s French-Language Education (FLE) system guided by the <i>Aménagement linguistique policy</i>	\$2.13M
Indigenous Education	To improve student performance and well-being and close the performance gap between Indigenous students and all students	\$3.73M
Math	To support Ontario’s students in meeting provincial math standards	\$40.50M

Key Priority	Objective	Amount (\$M)
Mental Health and Well-Being	To support the critical linkage between mental health and well-being and student success	\$34.54M
Special Education	To improve support for families of children and youth with special education needs	\$17.14M
Student Pathways	To support students as they transition to postsecondary destinations including, apprenticeship, college, university, and the workplace	\$35.7M
Supporting Student Potential	To support vulnerable students, including youth at risk, to stay in school, graduate and succeed	\$17.89M
System Support and Efficiencies	To provide support to help ensure that the education system is running efficiently and effectively	\$30.00M

Further information on additional school board PPF initiatives will be provided as it becomes available.

Descriptions of the initiatives for each of the school board PPF initiatives are as follows:

Curriculum Implementation (\$2.25M)

Curriculum implementation funding will support the implementation of recently released curriculum, including the revised elementary Health and Physical Education curriculum (2019), and the revised Grade 10 Career Studies course (2019). This funding is in addition to funding announced in the budget to support implementation of Indigenous-focused curriculum revisions, including the revised First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies curriculum (2019). Funding can be used to support professional learning and release time for educators.

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.

French-Language Education

Implementation of Aménagement linguistique initiatives and strategies to retain and engage students (\$0.1200M)

Funding to assist French-language school boards in the implementation of aménagement linguistique initiatives in French-Language schools in Ontario with a view to engage students and develop their sense of belonging to the French-language school system and their community.

Compass for Success (\$0.0960M)

Funding to support six French-language school boards, with a view to build the capacity of system leaders, principals and teachers in data collecting, analysis and identifying next steps.

Regional inter-council meetings (\$0.0680M)

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) meetings organized regionally by French-language school boards to facilitate the implementation of SHSM programs in schools, share expertise and facilitate networking among school boards.

Special Education Investment (\$1.8500M)

Final installment in support of a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) with l'Association des enseignantes et enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO) and Council of Trustee's Association (CTA) to promote the success of French-language students with special needs.

Indigenous Education

New Indigenous Strategic Priorities (\$3.18M)

Programs and supports to assist Indigenous learners to graduate, supports successful transition into secondary schools or the labor market, inclusive school environments, innovation. This initiative includes funding for the Indigenous Grad Coach and Rapid Response Northern Schools Team initiatives.

Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) (\$0.35M)

AYEP gives Grade 11 and 12 Indigenous students in selected schools an opportunity to earn two senior business studies credits through a program based on the Ontario business studies curriculum and supplemented by Indigenous content, hands-on activities, guest speakers and business mentors, and funding opportunities. Students develop entrepreneurial skills and learn how to create and establish their own small business.

Keewatin Patricia District School Board (KPDSB)/ Keewatinook Okimakanak Board of Education (\$0.2M)

KPDSB seconds a principal to support the capacity development of educators and administrators in partnering First Nation operated schools to First Nation students success and well-being as they transition from remote and fly in communities, as young as 12, into provincially-funded schools.

Math (\$40.5M)

The Ministry announced a four-year Math Strategy to improve student math performance.

This funding will allow boards to hire a board-based math learning lead to implement the revised math curriculum and to coordinate board improvement efforts in mathematics. Funding will also be provided to hire math learning facilitators to support student performance in targeted elementary and secondary schools. Math learning facilitators will provide training and coaching opportunities for principals and math teachers and support parent engagement.

Release time funding will be provided to all boards, with additional funding provided for targeted schools, to allow educators to engage in school and classroom-based training, coaching, and other co-learning opportunities.

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.

Northern Supports Initiatives (NSI) (\$7M)

Northern Supports Initiative (NSI) is intended to mitigate the challenges faced by all northern school boards with respect to lack of available services in their communities; difficulty in attracting and retaining service professionals at the board level or accessing these services through community partners; and higher costs of service provision. NSI funding is utilized in a regional collaboration model that serves all northern school boards and school authorities through three regional cooperatives. The cooperatives determine local special education priorities, to deliver joint, innovative and cost-effective special education programs and services.

Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) (\$1.44M)

The Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) provides coordinated assessment, consultation and treatment services, on a multi-agency, multi-ministry basis, to children and youth with physical, psychological and educational challenges in under-served rural and remote communities of Northern Ontario. This funding provides access to services from teacher diagnosticians, psychology professionals and speech and language professionals.

Student Pathways*Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) (\$23.7M)*

Specialist High Skills Major supports students to focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students receive the SHSM seal on their diploma when they:

- complete a specific bundle of 8-10 courses in the student's selected field
- earn valuable industry certifications including first aid and CPR qualifications
- gain important skills on the job through cooperative education placements.

All school boards with secondary schools receive funding to support this program.

Enhancements to Experiential Learning (EL) (\$12M)

Each board receives enhancements to experiential learning funding, separated into two categories:

- Funding used to hire a full-time, dedicated Leader of Experiential Learning (LEL) for their board.
- Funding to support and to provide effective experiential learning opportunities for students in their board.

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, the focus of LELs will be to provide direction and support to help students in Grades 7-12 continue to engage in experiential learning opportunities, in collaboration with community and industry partners, with a particular focus on increasing

exposure to and awareness of technology, the skilled trades and apprenticeship as viable pathway options for all students.

Supporting Student Potential

Focus on Youth 2019 Summer Program (\$7.6M)

The Focus on Youth (FOY) Program creates summer employment opportunities for high school students who may be disengaged from school and/or experience barriers to employment as a result of home or school environments, including conflict with the law, poverty and/or low academic achievement. Through the program, school boards and community partners offer free or low-cost summer camps for young children.

Transportation Supports for Children and Youth in Care (\$6.6M)

To improve the educational outcomes and well-being of children and youth in care, funding for transportation services enables students to stay in their school of origin when their residence changes until a more natural transition time, so they have stability at school, can focus on their learning, and maintain academic standing and graduate.

Human Rights and Equity Advisors (\$2.4M)

This project provides support for school boards to employ the services of Human Rights and Equity Advisors (HREAs). HREAs work with the Director of the board and with the board's senior team to foster a culture of respect for human rights and equity, help identify and address systemic human rights and equity issues, and increase the board's human rights compliance.

Demographic Data Gathering (\$1M)

Funding to prepare school boards for, or engage in, the collection of voluntary student or staff identity-based data. The funding supports boards to build their capacity to meet the growing needs and expectations of their increasingly diverse communities for evidence-based decision making. This project allows boards to construct the necessary structures and protocols to meet the legal, ethical and research standards for the collection, analysis and use of demographic data.

Broadening Horizons (\$0.25M)

Funding to address equity and human rights issues in priority areas such as rural and northern areas and target barriers that limit student success in schools, for example, to continue the Indigenous Cultural Safety initiative.

System Support and Efficiencies

Broadband Modernization Program (BMP) (\$24M)

Funding will be provided to provide access to reliable, fast, secure and affordable internet services to all students and educators in all regions across Ontario – including in rural and northern communities. The current target connectivity speed is 1 megabit per second per student or educator, in a scalable and sustainable network that can adapt to future needs following a common network architecture across Ontario.

As part of the BMP, the ministry will also work jointly with boards to strengthen cyber protection measures.

New Teacher Induction Program – Enhancing Teacher Development Fund (NTIP-ETD) (\$1M)

This program addresses gaps in the GSN funding formula – specifically:

- Significant changes in number of new permanent hires from the previous year
- NTIP required permanent hires past Year 2 on the Teacher Qualifications and Experience Grid

Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP) (\$3.5M)

This program provides direct funding to front-line teachers, or teams of teachers to build teachers' expertise in effective teaching. The learning projects are teacher-led and influenced by real local needs; for example in math or special education.

Apprenticeship and Professional Development Training Funding of Education Workers Represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) (\$1.35M)

As a result of the 2017 education sector labour negotiations, a grant to school boards with CUPE local bargaining units is to be used on the basis of joint applications received from school boards and CUPE locals for apprenticeship training under the OCT and or professional development opportunities.

Apprenticeship Training Funding of Education Workers Represented by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation – Education Workers (OSSTF-EW) (\$0.15M)

As a result of the 2017 education sector labour negotiations, a grant has been allocated to school boards with OSSTF education worker local bargaining units to be used on the basis of joint applications received from school boards and OSSTF locals for apprenticeship training under the Ontario College of Trades.

Next Steps

If you require further information about these initiatives, please contact your regular Ministry program contacts or the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the program.

The Ministry looks forward to continuing our strong partnership with the school boards and school authorities and working towards maximizing student performance and well-being.

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Copy: Superintendents of Business and Finance

Frank Kelly, Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Anna Marie Bitonti, Chair, Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour & Finance Division

Warren McCay, Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Management and Services Division

Denise Dwyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Education and Well Being Division

Denys Giguère, Assistant Deputy Minister, French Language, Teaching Learning and Achievement Division

Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capital and Business Support Division

Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division

Patrick Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Equity Secretariat

Richard Franz, Assistant Deputy Minister, System Planning, Research & Innovation Division

Shannon Fuller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division

Shirley Kendrick, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Support and Field Services Division