



REPORT TO

## CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### 2021-22 GRANTS FOR STUDENT NEEDS ANNOUNCEMENT

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*  
Joshua 1:9

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 5, 2021	May 13, 2021	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
D. De Souza, Coordinator of Grants & Ministry Reporting G. Sequeira, Coordinator of Budget Services P. De Cock, Comptroller of Business Services & Finance S. Camacho, Chief Information Officer		
<b>INFORMATION REPORT</b>		

**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 uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*



Brendan Browne, PhD  
Director of Education

D. Koenig  
Associate Director  
of Academic Affairs

D. Boyce  
Associate Director of  
Facilities, Business and  
Community Development

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. ***Announcements made by the Ministry of Education will entail further analysis to develop the budget.*** The Grant for Student Needs (GSN) funding and regulations released on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by the Ministry of Education (EDU) provided a first look at ongoing funding commitments, funding reductions and new education funding investments into the education sector (see attached).
2. ***The late release of data by the Ministry delayed the original budget approval timelines previously communicated to the Board.*** Given the delay of the technical details and the Electronic Financial Information System (EFIS) release by the Ministry to mid-May, staff will bring the preliminary budget estimates to the Board meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> and may require a Special Board meeting to finalize the budget.
3. ***Based on a preliminary analysis and review of the GSN announcement to date, staff expect that service levels across all program and service areas will be affected to arrive at a balanced budget.*** The Ministry of Education announcements on May 4<sup>th</sup> affects program and service areas and addresses the return to school following the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the 2021-22 Budget Estimates will contain service level reductions to arrive at a balanced budget in compliance with the Education Act.

***The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 8 hours.***

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. ***This annual report has been prepared to provide highlights and identify budget impacts of the education funding announcements for the TCDSB.*** This report responds to the recent GSN announcement for key policy and funding changes for 2021-22. In addition, this report has been prepared to allow Trustees and members of the public a preview of some financial and operational impacts.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. ***The Ministry of Education released B and SB Memorandums regarding the 2021-22 Grants for Student Needs on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.*** These Memorandums provide an update to the 2021-22 Budget Estimates' GSN calculations and address the ongoing financial challenges due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
2. ***Total projected overall GSN funding for the TCDSB is decreasing. Although government is providing additional funds for COVID-19 related expenses, a decline in TCDSB's projected enrollment is driving an overall significant reduction in funding.*** In response to the negative enrolment impact brought on by the pandemic, District School Boards are required to adjust staffing levels in compliance with provincial legislation due to the elimination of funding stabilization amounts received as a one-time adjustment for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

1. ***One-time Provincial Funding of \$16.5M for COVID-19 and \$22.7M for Enrollment Stabilization will not continue into the 2021-22 school year.***
2. ***One-time Federal funding of \$17.5M, based on current knowledge, will also not continue into the 2021-22 school year.***
3. ***The Planning for the Return to School 2021-22 Memo (B:07) contains reference to new funds available to School Boards for COVID-19 related expenses in 2021-22.*** The impacts to the TCDSB are detailed in the table below. School Boards have been asked to only budget for 50% of these funds for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the school year with a few exceptions for investments in remote learning technology and learning recovery amounts.

	<b><i>Provincial Funding</i></b>
Additional School Based Staffing Support*	\$11.98M
Additional School Operational Support*	\$1.22M
Transportation Health and Safety Measures*	\$2.06M
Special Education Supports*	\$0.47M
Mental Health Supports*	\$0.60M
Re-engaging Students and Reading Assessment Supports	\$0.82M
<i>Full Total</i>	<i>\$17.15</i>
<b>*50% of Funds Available</b>	<b>\$8.99M</b>

4. ***In addition to the above, the Ministry is allowing the use of up to 2% of the base operating budget to be supplemented by School Board Reserves.*** The Ministry estimates this to be approximately \$22M for the TCDSB. However, only \$7.8M is available in the Operating Contingency Reserve. Furthermore, Business Services staff believe these reserves should be used to offset in-year pressures and not placed into the baseline budget to start the school year.
5. ***The Ministry has also provided a Remote Learning Funding Amount but has not provided any specific allocation to the TCDSB.*** This source of funding will be available on an application basis.
6. ***GSN Per Pupil Funding changes are nominal.*** GSN funding for 2021–22 is projected to be \$25.6 billion, an increase of 2.2 per cent, while the average provincial per-pupil funding is projected to be \$12,686 in 2021–22, which is an increase of \$152 or 1.2 per cent from 2020–21.
7. ***Covid-19 supports in the 2021-22 GSN.*** Starting in 2021–22, in recognition of the continuing need for additional funding for technology resources and mental health supports, the Ministry is now planning for these allocations to be ongoing elements within the GSN.

Additionally, there will be other time-limited supports through the Language Grant in the GSN demonstrating the government's ongoing support for the health, safety and well-being of students and staff during the pandemic.

8. ***Technology Resources - Moving to the Pupil Foundation Grant (PFG) and Geographic Circumstances Grant (GCG)*** The ministry will provide \$14.9 million in 2021–22 to support technology-related costs. This continued funding will help to replace some devices that may be out-of-date and support the procurement of additional student devices.

This funding is provided through a new Student Technological Devices per-pupil amount (\$7.11) for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. This would be an approximate increase in funding for the TCDSB of \$0.6M, which is equivalent of about 1,200 computers.

9. ***Mental Health Supports - Moving to the Mental Health and Well-Being Grant.*** The Ministry will provide \$10.1 million in 2021–22 to support student mental health to foster the continued learning and well-being of students. This is in addition to \$49.0 million through Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF) for special education, mental health and well-being and equity initiatives for temporary COVID-19 funding supports.

This funding is provided through a new Supporting Student Mental Health Allocation within the Mental Health and Well-Being Grant of the GSN. School boards may use this funding for the following student mental health related purposes:

- Employ mental health professionals to directly support students
- Provide professional learning and training for educators, school-based mental health
- Collaborate with community mental health providers to ensure pathways to care for students requiring more intensive supports are available
- Student engagement opportunities regarding mental health
- The collection, analysis and reporting of student mental health related information

Funding will be provided to school boards through a per-board amount of \$100,858 plus a per-pupil amount (\$1.34). School boards have the flexibility to utilize this funding to address local priorities both at the elementary and secondary panels to support student mental health.

10. ***Recent Immigrant Supplement.*** Due to the extraordinary and temporary decline in recent immigrant enrolment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and closed borders, \$79.6 million in time-limited mitigation funding is being provided to supplement the Recent Immigrant Component of the English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) Allocation (for English-language school boards) This funding is expected to help school boards continue to offer the same level of support to students requiring ESL/ELD programs. The specific impact of these funds to the TCDSB is still being analyzed.
11. ***The ministry will provide a 2% cost bench mark update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations.*** This allocation will assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e. electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs).
12. ***Labour Funding Salary benchmark funding rates for 2021-22 will increase by 1%*** as per Central Collective Agreements with employee union groups.
13. ***School Operations Supplementary Area Factor (SAF) will decrease.*** SAF reductions within the School Operations and Renewal Grant will continue to be phased-in to reflect the new Secondary class size of 23. This will reduce the TCDSB operating funding amount. The specifics are still to be determined.
14. ***The Capital Funding 2021-22 Memo (B:09) contains updates confirming school renewal and condition capital funding for the 2021-22 school year.*** Funding for School Renewal is estimated to provide the TCDSB \$43.9M for School Condition Improvement (SCI), \$17.2M for the School Renewal Allocation (SRA) and \$3.2M for the Temporary Accommodation Allocation. ***These amounts are similar to previous years and not a material increase.***
15. ***The 2021-22 Priorities and Partnership Memo (B:10) provides funding updates concerning 2021-22 Priorities and Partnerships (PPF).*** Some School Board Allocations are contained within this announcement, while the remaining School Board allocations will be communicated later. These funds must be used for these specific initiatives. The allocations to the TCDSB appears in the following table:

<b>PPF</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Math Strategy	Additional Board and School positions to support student math performance and de-streaming Gr.9 math; and support for Additional Qualifications Courses for educators	\$1.35M
Pilot to Improve School-based Supports for Students with ASD	Support for the provision of Applied Behaviour Analyst (ABA) Practitioners to provide direct service to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	\$0.03M
Well-being and Mental Health Bundle	Support for School Boards to meet local needs and priorities that promote well-being and mental health, including safe, healthy, inclusive, and accepting learning environments.	\$0.12M
Educators Autism Additional Qualifications (AQ) Subsidy	Support for teacher participation in the Teaching Students with Communication Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder) AQ Course.	\$0.006M
Learn and Work Bursary	A bursary for vulnerable and underserved students in a cooperative education program and have financial and other barriers to completing the OSSD.	\$0.03M
Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant	Support for parent engagement in their own communities and enable more parents to support their child's learning and well-being.	\$0.095M
Learning and Innovation Fund for Teachers	Support for teacher collaboration, learning and sharing of effective practices within schools, within boards, and ac	\$0.063M
<b>TCDSB - Total</b>		<b>\$1.699M</b>

- 16. Overall, the funds provided by the Ministry will be somewhat helpful to the TCDSB, but will likely not cover the projected revenue loss from declining enrollment.**
- 17. The June 8, 2021 Preliminary Budget Estimates report will include more TCDSB specific detail.** Staff will now begin the process of analyzing the technical details of the Ministry release in order to determine TCDSB specific impacts and calculate the budget. As details become available, staff will provide some of the pertinent details to Trustees through briefing notes if necessary, but all information will be made public through the June 8, 2021 report.

## **E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board of Trustees.