

From:
To: ;
Cc:
Subject: Response from the Ministry of Education
Date: September 18, 2023 1:40:38 PM

Please see the response below from the Ministry of Education, on behalf of Doreen Lamarche.

Dr. Brendan Browne, Director of Education
Nancy Crawford, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Toronto Catholic District School Board

Dear Dr. Brendan Browne and Chair Crawford,

Thank you for your email dated March 30, 2023, on behalf of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, regarding funding to support Ukrainian students. On behalf of the Ministry of Education, I am pleased to respond.

Over time, Ontario has experienced an increase in newcomers arriving in the province for a variety of reasons. The ministry recognizes that students that arrive in Ontario may require additional supports from schools to support their integration and provide them with every opportunity to reach their full potential.

To date, the Ministry of Education has made a number of investments to support the transition of Ukrainian newcomers. Specifically, the Ministry of Education provided:

- \$4.7 million in one-time funding to school boards to support 1,663.5 Ukrainian students who enrolled between April 1 and June 30, 2022, and who did not generate funding through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for that school year. This included \$657,715 to Toronto Catholic District School Board to support the 228 students who enrolled at your board.
- \$50,000 to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress— Toronto Branch for the design and implementation of culturally responsive and trauma-informed supports for staff, students, and families, including newcomers, who have been impacted by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.
- \$399,000 to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation to educate students and the public about the effects and consequences of hate, bullying, discrimination and intolerance through the lens of the Holodomor.

In addition, in Spring 2022 we amended Ontario Regulation 20/10 (Fees for Non-Permanent Residents — Exemptions) under the *Education Act* to allow students who are displaced by the crisis in Ukraine to enrol in an Ontario publicly funded school and not be required to pay fees. This exemption is set to continue for as long as they reside in Ontario under a Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) visa. While this exemption is in place, Ukrainian students enrolled in Ontario publicly funded

schools are funded through the GSN.

About two-thirds of the GSN is responsive to enrolment, which means that as enrolment grows, funding to school boards also grows to help school boards provide a number of supports such as language proficiency, special education, social work, and mental health.

Overall enrolment for the Toronto Catholic District School Board, as reported by your school board, shows a net decline year over year in the last few years, with a minor decline of 0.7 per cent projected for the 2023-24 school year compared to 2022-23 revised estimates. However, base GSN funding is projected to increase by 1.4 per cent for the 2023-24 school year. Your school board is in the best position to make programming and staffing decisions to best support students based on local circumstance and priorities.

The ministry recognizes and thanks you and all the staff at the Toronto Catholic District School Board for all the support you are providing to Ukrainian students and their families to transition into Canadian life.

Sincerely,

Doreen Lamarche
Executive Director
Education Finance Office

c: Paola Botticella
Executive Assistant to the Director of Education and the Chair of the Board