

**Ministry of Education**

Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister

Indigenous Education and Well Being  
Division13 Floor, Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint

Division de l'éducation autochtone et  
du bien-être13<sup>e</sup> étage, édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1L2

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and Secretary Treasurers of School Authorities  
Director of Provincial Schools Branch  
Parent Involvement Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

**FROM:** Denise Dwyer  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Indigenous Education and Well Being Division

**DATE:** February 22, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **2018-19 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants**

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We are pleased to announce that applications for the 2018-19 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants program are now being accepted. We thank you for your enthusiasm, leadership and continued support for PRO Grants and for encouraging more parents to be involved in their children's learning and well-being.

Ontario recognizes that parents are a key part of our success in education. We know that good schools become great schools when parents are involved. PRO Grants support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community and finding local solutions to address these barriers in support of student achievement, human rights and equity, and well-being.

There are two components to the PRO Grants program:

**PRO Grants for School Councils** support projects that help identify and remove individual and systemic barriers to parent engagement that may prevent some parents from fully participating in their children's learning and well-being. School councils may develop proposals individually, with other school councils or with other groups in their school or community. Each school council may apply for a maximum of \$1,000. To learn more about PRO Grants for school councils, please visit the ministry website at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html>.

Together, we can continue to expand outreach to parents in schools that have not participated in the PRO Grants program in the past and schools in high-needs areas. We appreciate your efforts in

communicating the availability and benefits of the PRO Grants program and for encouraging school councils in your school board to apply.

**PRO Grants for Regional/Provincial Projects** are available to Parent Involvement Committees (PICs), school boards, parent organizations, registered non-profit organizations and publicly funded post-secondary institutions for projects aimed at engaging parents in support of student achievement, human rights and equity, and well-being. As in previous years, priority will be given to parent-led projects that have been developed in partnership with school boards. The maximum grant available for regional/provincial projects is \$30,000. For more information about PRO Grants for regional/provincial projects, please visit the ministry website at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/regional.html>.

This year, the ministry is enhancing the focus of PRO Grants to support parent engagement in equity and inclusive education. Special consideration will be given to eligible school council and regional/provincial projects that:

- Support and engage parents who have not been previously active in the school community, parents from racially or ethnically diverse communities, or hard-to-reach parents; and/or
- Support the engagement of parents from Indigenous communities; and/or
- Promote increased access and awareness of math strategies and resources for parents to support their children's learning at home at school; and/or
- Promote the value of postsecondary education (apprenticeship, college, or university) by providing parents with information on postsecondary education pathways, possibilities, and supports for their children.

Attached are presentation decks that provide an overview of the PRO Grants program and application process. In the past, PICs and school councils have found these useful to share with parent groups through workshops, information meetings/sessions, or via email.

The deadline for submitting a 2018-19 PRO Grant application is **Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 11:59 P.M. EST**. Applications must be completed and submitted online. If you have questions, please contact Raj Cheema, Senior Policy Advisor at 416-212-0512/[raj.cheema@ontario.ca](mailto:raj.cheema@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your ongoing support of PRO Grants and for encouraging parent engagement throughout your school board.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Denise Dwyer  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Indigenous Education and Well Being Division

cc. Regional Office Managers  
Regional Education Officers – Parent Engagement Leads  
Executive Assistants to Directors of Education

Attachments: 2018-19 PRO Grants for School Councils (Presentation Deck)  
2018-19 PRO Grants for Regional/Provincial Projects (Presentation Deck)