



Leading Education's Advocates

## OPSBA Review of 2017-18 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Related Announcements

On April 12, 2017, the Ministry of Education released [memorandum B04](#) which includes information about the Ministry of Education's GSN funding for 2017–18. Investments in Ontario's publicly-funded education system continue to increase, with total funding expected to increase from \$23 billion in 2016–17 to \$23.8 billion in 2017–18.

Per-pupil funding is projected to increase in 2017–18 to \$12,100 – an increase of 68 per cent since 2002–03.

The 2017-18 GSN reflects implementation of recently ratified labour agreements and regular updates to the GSN, informed by recent engagement sessions and ongoing technical discussions.

A summary of these conversations is currently available on the [ministry's website](#). Starting in spring 2017, the ministry will be [conducting engagement sessions](#) around the province to discuss rural education and what improvements can be made for Ontario's students.

The memo includes details regarding funding for:

- Salaries (\$257.2 million) & professional development (\$85.7 million);
- Employee health, life & dental benefits changes;
- Specific funding enhancements for special education & adult education (\$218.9 million);
- Community use of schools (\$800,000);
- Human Resource Transition Supplement (\$10 million);
- Reduction of class size in full-day kindergarten (\$16.7 million) & grades 4-8 (\$39.6 million);
- School condition improvement & school renewal (\$1.4 billion in total);
- Greenhouse gas reduction (\$200 million);
- Indigenous education (enveloping per pupil amount of \$25.3 million);
- School administration;
- Student transportation (2% increase);
- Utilities including natural gas, insurance, electricity etc. (2% increase)

The memo also includes information regarding previously announced changes as follows:

- Changes from existing & prior labour agreements;
- Benefits investments;
- School board administration & governance;
- Measures to encourage the management of underutilized school space;
- Updating of 2011 census and National Household Survey data;

The memo further announces an engagement/consultation process regarding rural education.

Additionally, the Ministry will proceed with a multi-stakeholder consultation process regarding student transportation including funding and future policy development. Funding for school authorities will be adjusted as appropriate to reflect changes in funding to DSBs as detailed above, these details will be provided to school authorities as soon as possible.

#### 2017-18 School Year Education Programs – Other (EPO) Funding

On April 12, 2017, the Ministry of Education released [memorandum B03](#) which includes information about Education Program – Other (EPO) funding which will continue in the upcoming school year to support school boards' ability to implement targeted initiatives that meet the needs of its student demographic. The ministry will continue to strive to simplify the reporting processes and requirements for EPO transfer payments. The goal of this is to reduce administrative burden, improve financial resource management and better support the renewed vision. The ministry will also continue to examine opportunities to streamline EPO, such as by transferring programs to the GSN.

To facilitate school boards' budget planning for the 2017-18 school year, the Ministry confirmed that \$140.4 million of EPO funding will be allocated to school boards and school authorities to support ministry priorities. Within this amount:

- \$101.4 million is allocated by program and by school board in this memorandum; and,
- \$39 million has been allocated by program, with school board allocations to be confirmed later in the year.

The B memo includes a detailed breakdown of EPO funding by school board & grant category.