

OPSBA Initial Review of the Grants for Student Needs

February 23, 2022



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

The Ministry of Education announced the [2022-23 Grants for Student Needs](#) (GSN) and Priorities and Partnerships (PPF) funding on February 17, 2022. Grant funding is projected to be \$26.1 billion, which represents an increase of 2.7% over the prior year. The average per-pupil funding amount is projected to be \$13,059, which is an increase of \$339 from last year. The technical paper is to be released later in March.

OPSBA's submission to the ministry for consideration in the 2022-23 GSN included supports for:

- Mental Health
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- Special Education
- Indigenous Education
- Northern and Rural Challenges
- Professional Learning
- French As A Second Language (FSL)
- Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships
- Capital and Facilities Funding
- Student Transportation
- Technology and Broadband
- 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections

Funding support was announced within the GSN and PPF grants in alignment with these areas:

Mental Health Supports

GSN

\$13.1 million is being added in addition to a \$25.2 million transfer from PPF grants to support student mental health within the Supporting Student Mental Health Allocation. \$10 million of new funding is being added to provide evidence-based mental health programs and resources to support student resilience and mental well-being.

PPF

\$7.99 million to support the critical linkage between mental health and well-being and student success. Also provides students with physical health and safety supports.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

PPF

- \$6.6 million to provide transportation and stability supports for children and youth in care.
- \$4.1 million to fund the graduation coach program for Black students.
- \$3.24 million to fund Human Rights and Equity Advisors at select school boards.
- \$3 million to implement de-streaming for Grade 9 students.
- \$2.5 million to fund school board in collecting and analyzing demographic data to gain a clearer understanding of who Ontario students are.

- \$600,000 to support pilot projects at select boards intended to focus on examining discipline practices in order to keep students in school.
- \$130,000 intended to deepen school boards' capacity to address equity and human rights priorities, and target barriers that limit student success in schools, particularly in rural and northern boards.

Special Education

GSN

- A portion of the \$304 million COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund is intended to provide supports for special education.
- The Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) Allocation is seeing a transfer of \$16.3 million from previously provided PPF grants, as a Local Special Education Priorities amount.
- \$7.4 million is being added to the Special Equipment Amount to support more assistive technology for students with special education needs.
- \$1.4 million in additional funding is being added to the DSENA Measure of Variability Northern Adjustment.

PPF

- \$10 million to provide summer learning supports for students with special education needs.
- \$7.48 million to improve support for children and youth with special education needs and their families and educators.
- \$8.32 million to support early intervention in math for students with special education needs.

Indigenous Education

PPF

- \$120,000 to support summer learning for First Nation students.
- \$6.61 million to support the academic success and well-being of Indigenous students, as well as build the knowledge of all students and educators on Indigenous histories, cultures, perspectives, and contributions.

Professional Learning

PPF

\$1 million in supplemental New Teacher Induction Program funding to enhance teacher development.

French as a Second Language (FSL)

GSN

A transfer from former PPF grant of \$7.9 million is being made into the GSN to support the additional costs of FSL initiative and activities undertaken by English-language school boards in keeping with the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Official Language.

Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships

PPF

- \$13.2 million to expand Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) programs.
- \$3 million to support experiential professional learning in the skilled trades for guidance teacher-counsellors.
- \$1 million to support the Skilled Trades Bursary Program.

Capital and Facilities Funding

GSN

\$1.4 billion is being invested in School Renewal (\$370 million) and School Condition Index (\$1.07 billion) capital funding programs.

Student Transportation

GSN

An increase of 2% is being added to the Student Transportation Grant, but no increase has been allocated to individual school boards at this time.

Technology and Broadband

GSN

\$39.9 million is being added to support Broadband Network Operations. The funding will support digital learning, increased network capacity, and enhanced network security.

Other highlights include:

Continuation of Supports for Students Funding - \$212.7 million in Supports for Students Funding (Investment in System Priorities), which was agreed to in central collective agreements, is being continued into 2022-23 to stabilize staffing supports.

COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund - \$304 million which is intended to provide staffing supports to address:

- Learning recovery
 - Implementation of fully de-streamed Grade 9
 - Delivery of remote learning – boards are required to maintain a viable virtual option for both elementary and secondary students
 - Supports for special education
 - Maintaining enhanced cleaning standards
-
- \$134.4 million to support the Recent Immigrant Supplement of the Language Grant, to ensure programs can continue to run while immigration levels remain low as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Salary and benefits benchmark increases, in alignment with central labour agreements.
 - Benchmarks for non-staff operating costs in recognition of inflationary increases and enhanced ventilation standards are increasing between 2.3% and 5.45%.

- The introduction of a secondary class size compliance framework, similar to that currently in place for elementary class sizes.
- \$144.17 million in PPF allocations to school boards.
- \$355 million in PPF allocations to education partners.