



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*  
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

May 1, 2019

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Beverley Eckensweiler, President

**SUBJECT:** 2019-2020 GSN Announcement

---

On April 26, 2019 the Ministry of Education issued Ministry Memorandums 2019:B14 and 2009:B15. These memoranda provide highlights of the 2019-20 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) as well as the 2019-20 Priorities and Partnerships Fund (formerly EPO funding). The GSN for 2019-20 is estimated at \$24.66 billion which is an increase of \$160 million from the previous year.

Highlights of the 2019-20 GSN are as follows:

### FUNDING RELATED TO LABOUR AGREEMENTS

- Increase in salary benchmarks for unionized teaching and non-teaching staff of 1.0 percent for 2019-20 school year *\*Does not include directors of education or senior administration staff. Funding for principal and vice-principal salary increases are provided separately.*

The **Local Priorities Funding (LPF)** \$218.9 Million in 2018-19, has not been renewed for 2019-20. This will have an immediate impact on Board's school-based staffing for the upcoming school year. LPF funding was included within Learning Opportunities Grant (\$514.2M in 2019-20; \$744.2M in 2018-19).

The **Human Resource Transition Supplement**, a fund within the Board Administration & Governance Grant (\$10.0M) to assist in managing agreements, has been eliminated.

The **Cost Adjustment Allocation – Base Amount** (\$36M) which provided supplemental funding for education worker benchmarks has been discontinued for 2019-20.



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*  
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

## **CLASS SIZE AND ATTRITION PROTECTION: \$214.0M**

### **Junior & Senior Kindergarten**

- No changes proposed in funded average class size (25.57).
- Commencing in 2019-20 Funded Early Childhood Educators (ECE) classroom staffing reduced from 1.14 FTE to 1.0 FTE. Ministry to provide new per pupil amount (\$87.32) to support ECE supply costs.
- Note: this change is not grant neutral, the funding impact on boards is significant. Based on 2018-19 pupil foundation grant benchmarks the net ECE funding loss is estimated at \$129.18 per Jk/Sk pupil.

### **Grades 4-8**

- Commencing 2019-20, Board -wide average adjusted to 24.5.
- Funded average changed from 23.84 to 24.5.
- This change will negatively impact both funding and staffing levels.

### **Secondary Class Size**

- Commencing 2019-20, Board-wide average adjusted to 28.0.
- Funded average changed from 22.0 to 28.0.
- This change will negatively impact both funding and staffing levels.

## **SECONDARY PROGRAMME AMOUNT**

The Secondary programming amount of 1.02 FTE per 1,000 ADE is discontinued for 2019-20. (\$52.0M).

## **SUPPORTED SCHOOLS ALLOCATION**

Benchmarks to be adjusted to reflect changes in class size. This will have negative grant implications.

## **SCHOOL FACILITY OPERATIONS AND RENEWAL GRANT**



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*  
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

To align with the proposed changes to secondary class size, the Supplementary Area Factor for school facility operations will be adjusted. This change will be phased in over five years.

## **ATTRITION PROTECTION**

New Attrition Protection Allocation (included in Cost Adjustment and Qualifications & Experience Grant). Four year attrition protection to top up boards where the change in funded classroom teachers exceed the actual attrition and other voluntary leaves.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

\$15.2M for Behaviour Expertise Amount allocation targeted to hire additional professional staff at the board level with expertise in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and to enhance training opportunities to build capacity in ABA.

- ABA Expertise Professional Amount increased to \$24.4M
- ABA Training Amount increased to \$6.0M

## **CAPITAL FUNDING**

In 2019-20, \$1.0 billion will be allocated to school boards through the **School Condition Improvement (SCI)** program to address the significant backlog in school renewal needs.

**School Renewal Allocation (SRA)** of an additional \$40.0 million for improvements to schools for flooring, walls, ceilings, playing fields etc. 40% of the funds are allocated towards operating/maintenance.

### **School Foundation Grant Multi-Building Adjustment**

Commencing in 2018-19 School Foundation Grant funding based on campus definition of a school. A Campus is defined as a property or properties owned, leased, or rented by a board that are linked by a contiguous property line. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the four-year phase-in impact of this change on GSN funding.



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*  
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

## **COST PRESSURE FUNDING**

\$52 million to support boards with increases to electricity, transportation, and non-staff operations costs:

- The Student Transportation Grant will be increased by 4 percent.
- 2 percent cost benchmark update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (natural gas, facility insurance, electricity\* and other costs).

## **RURAL & NORTHERN EDUCATION FUNDING**

School boards continue to be required to spend RNEF funding using the List of Schools Eligible for Rural & Northern Education Allocation. School Boards may modify the list by passing a Board motion.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Stabilization funding will be provided to boards for 2019-20, based on board's 2018-19 transportation deficits. Consistent with the Auditor General's recommendations, the Ministry is undertaking a review of the transportation funding formula. For 2019-20 transportation funding of \$1.05B and increase of \$92M over 2018-19.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECOVERY AMOUNT (ISRA)**

New for 2019-20, a school board's total GSN operating grant shall be reduced by an amount equal to a flat fee of \$1,300 multiplied by the international student enrolment, prorated for less than full-time students.

## **MODERNIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES**

As previously noted in the 2019-20 Provincial Budget, the government will establish a Minister's task force to review how boards can conduct their operations in an efficient manner to ensure long-term sustainability.



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*  
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

## **2019-20 PRIORITIES & PARTNERSHIPS FUND**

Ministry *Memo 2019:B15* details the PPF funding initiative for 2019-20 (\$330M). To facilitate school boards' budget planning for the 2019-20 school year, the Ministry confirms that \$185 million will be allocated to school boards and school authorities to support Ministry priorities.

Of note, \$24M funding is being provided to support the Broadband Modernization Program to enhance access to internet services across all regions in Ontario.

Board by board estimates, and other information regarding funding for 2019-20 is available on the Ministry of Education website. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html>. The 2019-20 Technical Paper will be available in the coming weeks.

## **OCSTA FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCERNS**

### *Student Transportation Funding:*

OCSTA welcomes the renewed engagement on reviewing the Student Transportation Grant formula and the \$92 million increase in funding. However, OCSTA would advocate that the ministry needs to restructure the funding model to reflect the actual costs and needs of boards and restructure the procurement process to restore board autonomy and flexibility.

### *Special Education Funding:*

OCSTA welcomes the increase in Applied Behaviour Analysis funding and to enhance training opportunities and capacity building for boards in this therapy for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). However, OCSTA is still concerned about the increased number of students coming into the system and the overall capacity of boards to provide adequate supports to those students with ASD.

## **NEXT STEPS**

OCSTA will continue to review the GSN and PPF announcements and provide information as required. In addition, we will do further analysis, pending the release of the Technical Paper and board by board GSN funding projections as well as board by board PPF by the ministry. This will enable us to provide year over year impacts to boards and compare our board allocations to other publicly funded systems.



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*  
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

In addition, we will continue to advocate on behalf of our boards on the areas where the GSN/PPF investments fall short on meeting the needs of our boards or look to restrict local flexibility and autonomy. We will continue to monitor and track the minister's Task Force on school board efficiencies and provide updates on a timely basis.

We trust that this summary is of assistance. Any questions with respect to the GSN highlights may be directed to Dan at 519-835-0212 or email: [dduszczyszyn@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:dduszczyszyn@ocsta.on.ca).