

**Ministry of Education**

Education Labour and Finance  
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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

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**2022:B03**

**Date:** February 17, 2022

**Memorandum To:** Directors of Education  
Senior Business Officials  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Andrew Davis  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education Labour and Finance Division

**Subject:** **2022–23 Grants for Student Needs Funding**

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I am writing to provide you with information about the Ministry of Education's Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding for the 2022-23 school year.

GSN funding is projected to be \$26.1 billion, an increase of 2.7 per cent, while the average provincial per-pupil funding is projected to be \$13,059 in 2022–23, which is an increase of \$339 or 2.7 per cent from 2021–22. This represents a historic investment in public education and demonstrates the government's commitment to providing students with access to the skills and opportunities they need to succeed.

This year's GSN includes targeted investments for a range of initiatives, with highlights including funding for staffing-related student learning needs supporting de-streaming and learning renewal; enhanced supports for mental health and special education; and enhancements to implement recently negotiated terms and conditions of employment for principals and vice-principals.

## **A. \$651.1 MILLION TO SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING NEEDS**

There will continue to be flexible funding through the Supports for Students Fund for one additional year, subject to upcoming labour negotiations, as well as time-limited supports through the Language Grant and the new time-limited COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund to further support learning recovery, the implementation of de-streamed Grade 9, and other priorities.

### **Supports for Students Fund (SSF)**

The ministry is providing \$212.7 million through the SSF (also known as Investment in Systems Priorities in some central agreements), which provides flexible funding to school boards to support the learning needs of students consistent with central agreement obligations. This fund is being continued into 2022-23 to stabilize supports for students due to learning disruption, and school boards should continue to use this funding for its intended purpose under respective collective agreements for appropriate employee groups. Any funding beyond 2022-23 is subject to the upcoming round of central bargaining for groups whose central agreements expire on August 31, 2022. As such, this is time-limited funding.

Note that funds provided through the Adult Day School/Continuing Education Supplement of the Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant may be required for compensation or staffing under the SSF, depending on the collective agreements for some employee groups.

### **COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund**

The ministry is providing \$304.0 million<sup>1</sup> in time-limited and temporary additional staffing supports to continue to hire teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants and other education workers to address learning recovery, the implementation of the first year of a fully de-streamed Grade 9, the delivery of remote learning, supports for special education, and maintaining enhanced cleaning standards.

As part of this grant, school boards will be required to provide the option for remote learning in the 2022-23 school year. School boards are permitted to establish one virtual school per elementary and secondary panel based on local demand, where the funding can support the hiring of principals, vice-principals, school-based administrative support and/or Information Technology support. This funding can also be used to support staff previously funded under the Education Worker Protection Fund per the Canadian Union of Public Employees' central collective agreement that expires on August 31, 2022.

This support is key to meeting staffing needs for school boards so that schools can deliver stability for students and families. Funding must be spent on the priorities identified within this grant, but there is flexibility in how school boards may use the funds between any of these priorities based on local needs. Funded through a table amount, this funding is equivalent to the staffing portion previously provided under the 2021-22 COVID-19 PPF supports.

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<sup>1</sup>This amount includes district school boards and isolate board school authorities.

School boards should plan for this funding to expire at the end of August 2023.

### **Recent Immigrant Supplement**

The ministry continues to provide \$134.4 million in time-limited funding through the Recent Immigrant Supplement of the Language Grant, which was introduced in the 2021-22 school year. This funding is intended to address the out-year financial implications of the extraordinary and temporary decline in recent immigrant enrolment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This funding is supplementary to the Recent Immigrant Component of the English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) Allocation (for English-language school boards) and the Programme d'appui aux nouveaux arrivants (PANA) Allocation (for French-language school boards).

School boards will continue to generate top-up funding, where needed, if actual weighted enrolment falls below the level determined by the total weighted enrolment for each of the four years that generated funding through the ESL/ELD Recent Immigrant Component and the PANA Allocation in their 2019–20 Financial Statements.

## **B. \$103.3 MILLION FOR PRIORITY INVESTMENTS**

### **Student Mental Health Investment**

Recognizing the importance of promoting positive mental health, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase of \$38.3 million is being provided for student mental health within the Mental Health and Well-Being Grant. This amount includes an increase of \$25.2 million<sup>2</sup> through the Supporting Student Mental Health Allocation, transferred from Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF). This funding will continue to support student mental health to foster the continued learning and well-being of students. The base amount is increasing to \$301,723 per school board and the per-pupil amount is increasing to \$6.67. Starting this year, this allocation is enveloped meaning that it must be utilized for school or school board-based mental health staffing, programs, and initiatives.

A new investment of \$10.0 million is being provided, of which \$5.0 million is to be used for evidence-based mental health programs and resources to support student resilience and mental well-being. The ministry will provide more details on the use of these funds in advance of the 2022-23 school year.

The total investment in student mental health, including PPF, is about \$90 million representing a 420 per cent increase in funding since 2017-18.

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<sup>2</sup>This amount includes district school boards and isolate board school authorities.

Further details on the \$3.0 million in the new Well-Being and Positive School Climates Allocation can be found in the PPF transfers to GSN section below.

### **Local Special Education Priorities**

Funding of \$16.3 million<sup>3</sup> to enhance support for students with special education needs, previously provided through PPF, is being provided through the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) Allocation as a new Local Special Education Priorities amount. In alignment with the prior year, school boards may use this funding to address local priorities such as retaining additional educational and/or professional and paraprofessional staff (e.g., special education resource teachers, educational assistants, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists, among others) and other local priorities such as evidence-based programs and interventions, as well as transition supports.

### **Increased Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Per-Pupil Amount**

Funding of \$7.4 million is being provided through the SEA Allocation to support more assistive technology for students with special education needs. In the SEA Per-Pupil Amount component, the base is increasing to \$20,000 and the amount per pupil is increasing to \$39.461.

### **Increased Northern Adjustment within the DSENA**

Funding of \$1.4 million is being provided through the DSENA Measures of Variability (MOV) Northern Adjustment.

- The amount for the North East cooperative, administered by District School Board Ontario North East, will be increased by \$0.6 million to \$4.1 million.
- The amount for the North West cooperative, administered by Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, will be increased by \$0.3 million to \$2.3 million.
- The amount for the Northern French-language cooperative, administered by the Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario, will be increased by \$0.5 million to \$3.6 million.

This increase is being added through the Northern Supports component, sub-category 7A, of the DSENA MOV Northern Adjustment.

### **Broadband Network Operations**

To support access to quality online learning opportunities for all students, funding of \$39.9 million is being provided through a combination of the Pupil Foundation Grant (PFG) and the Geographic Circumstances Grant for broadband network operations. This will help to meet the increasing network demand for digital learning in the classroom and increased network capacity. In addition to existing funding available in the GSN, this supplemental funding supports the costs associated with network connectivity, network infrastructure, network security and related network operations in schools and school board buildings as usage increases and technology evolves. There will be performance metrics that school boards are

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<sup>3</sup>This amount includes district school boards and isolate board school authorities.

expected to maintain associated with this funding. Additional information on this will be shared in the near future.

This additional funding is being provided through a new Broadband Network Operations per-pupil amount (\$19.34) in the PFG, with a Broadband Network Operations Top-Up Allocation within the Geographic Circumstances Grant to ensure every district school board receives a minimum amount of \$125,000.

The support for ongoing evolution of broadband networks and network security builds on similar initiatives since 2018 that have helped all schools reach a minimum standard of secure connectivity. It is a key way that the government is helping to meet the needs of students in accessing quality learning opportunities and preparing them for success in the increasingly digital economy.

### **C. LABOUR-RELATED CHANGES**

Updates to benchmarks and other funding elements are being made to reflect the recently negotiated memorandum of settlement on terms and conditions of employment for principals and vice-principals. Updates impacting prior years will be made through amendments to prior year GSN regulations over the coming months. A provision for upcoming labour negotiations has also been included. Since union agreements expire on August 31, 2022, school boards are to set up a provision for these expenses, subject to the outcome and conclusion of negotiations. Further information on how to budget for and record this provision will be released as part of the SB-Memo on the 2022-23 Estimates Education Finance Information System (EFIS) forms.

#### **Salary Increase for Principals and Vice-Principals**

Salary benchmarks for principals and vice-principals will be increased by one per cent.

#### **Benefits Increase**

Benefits funding adjustments are being made through the Benefits Trust Allocation for employee groups that have agreements with provisions that impact the 2022-23 school year (i.e. principals and vice-principals, Conseil des associations en éducation pour les avantages sociaux - Education Council of Associations for Benefits, and Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario – Education Workers).

#### **In-School Administration and Leadership Benchmark Alignment**

The funded salary benchmarks for principals and vice-principals are being unified for the elementary and secondary panels within the In-School Administration and Leadership Allocation. The principal salary benchmark will be \$127,058 and the vice-principal salary benchmark will be \$121,496 for elementary, secondary and combined schools.

The ministry is also unifying the funded school office support staff salary benchmark to \$46,922 for elementary, secondary and combined schools. Board by board impacts of these changes

have been mitigated by providing \$818,689 in additional funding supports for combined schools.

### **Labour Provision**

A labour provision is being included for the first year of the upcoming round of central bargaining with teachers' federations and education worker unions whose agreements expire August 31, 2022. These funds, subject to the outcome and conclusion of negotiations, are to be included as budgeted expenses and used to help manage labour costs when they are confirmed.

### **Central Employer Bargaining Agency Fees Allocation**

As announced in 2021–22, the Central Employer Bargaining Agency Fees Allocation was revised to better reflect the trustees' associations' cost structures since the introduction of the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*. Starting in 2022–23, funding amounts for district school boards will be adjusted based on changes to the GSN benchmarks and their respective trustees' association's total 2021–22 annual expenses.

## **D. KEEPING UP WITH COSTS**

### **Non-Staff Benchmarks**

The ministry is providing a 5.45 per cent cost update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark, which consists of a 2.3 per cent cost update to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e. electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs) and an additional 3.15 per cent cost update to support the increased costs related to the need to run ventilation systems longer and replace filters more frequently. The latter was previously provided as temporary PPF funding to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the ministry is providing a 2.3 per cent cost update outside of the School Operations Allocation benchmark for other non-staff benchmarks and non-staff funding amounts throughout the GSN.

### **Student Transportation**

The ministry continues to review student transportation with the aim to achieve a more equitable and needs-based student transportation system in Ontario. While the review is underway, the Student Transportation Grant will be maintained at the previous year's funding level with adjustments for school boards with enrolment growth. A cost update amount of 2.0 per cent is included in the Student Transportation Grant, but has not been allocated board-by-board at this time. An update on this funding will be provided at later time. In addition, funding adjustments due to fuel price changes will continue to be triggered by the fuel escalation and de-escalation mechanism throughout the school year.

## **E. SUPPLY CHAIN CENTRALIZATION**

The ministry expects school boards to continue to make every effort to operate as efficiently as possible. This includes taking advantage of opportunities to minimize costs, as well as generate savings and efficiencies on products and services through the use of Vendor of Record (VOR) arrangements as outlined in the Interim Measures of the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive. For clarity, a VOR arrangement could be an Enterprise VOR arrangement managed by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, or any other arrangement available to the school board, such as the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace.

Supply Ontario is a new provincial agency established to address challenges in Ontario's supply chain system. It will transform and move public procurement forward, leveraging Ontario's \$29.0 billion annual purchasing power to further advance value creation to benefit our economy, business, and Ontarians. The ministry has established an EDU Supply Chain Centralization Transition Working Group to serve as a resource for school boards as the government and Supply Ontario move forward with supply chain centralization.

## **F. PPF & OTHER LANGUAGES IN EDUCATION (OLE) TRANSFERS TO GSN**

To further support the ministry's efforts to streamline funding while also reducing administrative burden for transfer payment recipients, the following PPF and OLE allocations are being transferred into the GSN:

### **Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants**

Funding of \$2.4 million to support PRO Grants is moving from PPF into a new component of the Parent Engagement Allocation within the School Foundation Grant. This new PRO component, funded through a combined amount of \$1,500 per school board and \$500 per school committee, supports school boards to work with their Parent Involvement Committees (PICs) in order to lead initiatives that address local parent needs and/or remove barriers that prevent parents from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning and educational progress.

With this change, the Parent Engagement Allocation has three components – PIC, School Council, and PRO – each with its own funding calculation. School boards are reminded that they are expected to comply with Ontario Regulation 612/00: *School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees*.

### **Canada-Ontario Agreement for French as a Second Language (FSL)**

Funding of \$7.9 million to support the additional costs of FSL initiatives and activities undertaken by English-language school boards in keeping with the Canada–Ontario Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction is moving from OLE and will be enveloped as a new Areas of Intervention component of the FSL Allocation within the Language Grant.

Funded through a table amount, the new Areas of Intervention component is provided to help English-language school boards enhance FSL-focused supports for educational staff and enrich the FSL learning environments and opportunities available to all students. With this change, the FSL Allocation has two components: Per-Pupil and Areas of Intervention.

### **Implementation of Aménagement linguistique Initiatives and Strategies to Retain and Engage Students**

The \$120,000 for the implementation of Aménagement linguistique initiatives and strategies to retain and engage students is moving from PPF into the board component of the Actualisation linguistique en français Allocation within the Language Grant.

Funding of \$10,000 for each of the 12 French-language school boards is provided to help French-language school boards develop language planning initiatives in schools. These initiatives will help to engage students and increase their sense of belonging to the French-language school system and Francophone communities, as set forth by the Aménagement linguistique policy for French-language schools in Ontario.

### **Well-Being and Mental Health Bundle**

Funding of \$3.0 million for the Well-Being and Mental Health Bundle is moving from PPF into a new Well-Being and Positive School Climates Allocation within the Mental Health and Well-Being Grant as previously noted above. This new Well-Being and Positive School Climates Allocation, funded through a base amount of \$10,000 per district school board and a per-pupil amount of \$1.14, supports school boards in meeting local needs and priorities that promote and support well-being and inclusive education, including strengthening positive school climates. This funding enables school boards to support activities in their improvement and multi-year strategic plans.

### **Learning and Innovation Fund for Teachers (LIFT)**

Funding of \$3.5 million to support ongoing teacher professional learning through the LIFT is moving from PPF into a new Teacher Learning and Innovation Allocation within the Cost Adjustment and Teacher Qualifications and Experience Grant. The Teacher Learning and Innovation Allocation includes a base amount of \$20,000 per district school board and increased amounts depending on average daily enrolment (ADE), providing an additional \$25,000 for ADE of 500 or more and an additional \$18,000 for ADE of 50,000 or more. The Teacher Learning and Innovation Allocation enables school boards to support teacher collaboration, responsive learning and sharing of effective practices within schools, within school boards and across the province.

## **G. ENHANCED ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

### **Secondary Class Size Compliance Framework**

To support the government's commitment to improving public education and advancing student achievement, the ministry is introducing a class size compliance framework to the

secondary panel starting in the 2022-23 school year. In previous years, school boards were required to report both elementary and secondary class sizes to the ministry; however, the compliance framework applied only to the elementary provisions of the regulation. There are no proposed changes to the collection process for secondary class size. The ministry will provide further information as part of the class size reporting process for the 2022-23 school year in the coming months.

## **H. ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION AND OTHER CHANGES**

### **Differentiated Funding for Online Learning**

The online and in-person learning credit load benchmarks are being updated for the second year of a multi-year trajectory. Reflecting the change in required online credits announced in Policy/Program Memorandum 167, the 2022-23 secondary benchmark for classroom teacher staffing through the Secondary Pupil Foundation Allocation and related grants will use a funded average credit load of 7.5 credits per pupil split between online learning (approximately 0.15) and in-person learning (approximately 7.35). The online learning credit load benchmark assumes approximately 15% of secondary students will take one course online in 2022-23.

### **Retirement Gratuities**

This is the eleventh year of a 12-year phase-out of the retirement gratuities resulting in a reduction in the benefits funding benchmarks. This 0.167 per cent reduction is applied to the benefits benchmarks in the foundation grants with equivalent adjustments to the benchmarks in the supplemental grants to reflect the reduction in benefits funding.

For school boards that provided one-time payouts of retirement gratuities in 2015–16, funding will continue to be recovered from school boards in 2022–23. This recovery, which began in 2016–17, will be over the estimated average remaining service life of school board employees eligible for retirement gratuities as at August 31, 2012. The funding recovered from school boards will be to the extent that school boards received funding from the ministry and to the extent that school boards reported a one-time gain in the early payout of retirement gratuities in 2015–16.

### **School Operations Allocation - Supplementary Area Factor**

This is the fourth year of the five-year phase-in of updates to the Supplementary Area Factor for base school facility operations within the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant to reflect a secondary class size of 23.

### **Teacher Job Protection Funding Allocation**

This is the final year of the four-year Teacher Job Protection Funding Allocation, which is available for teacher job protection for classroom teachers impacted by the changes to class sizes in 2019–20 and 2020–21. Given the reduction in the funded average secondary class size to 23 in 2020–21, it is projected that no funding will be generated through this allocation this year.

## **Technical Enrolment Policy Update**

A regulatory clarification is planned such that students who are pursuing remote learning or exclusively online learning and reside out of province will not qualify for GSN funding. Similarly, the ministry intends to update regulations so that the right to attend for property owners, or their children, who reside outside of Ontario, is limited to in-person learning only.

## **I. CAPITAL**

Details of capital funding programs are provided in a separate memorandum, **2022:B04**.

### **Amount for School Condition Improvement**

The ministry is committed to supporting healthy and safe learning environments. For the upcoming school year, the ministry will continue to invest approximately \$1.4 billion to maintain and improve the condition of schools.

This continued investment in school renewal is in addition to the up to \$656.5 million in approvals that school boards have received under the federal-provincial COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream, which is part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

## **J. ISOLATE BOARD SCHOOL AUTHORITIES**

As in previous years, funding for isolate board school authorities will be adjusted, as appropriate, to reflect changes in funding to district school boards. As such, funding for isolate board school authorities may include adjustments to some of the items presented in this memorandum. The ministry will provide further information to isolate board school authorities through an updated Addendum to the 2022–23 Technical Paper for Isolate Board School Authorities in the coming months.

## **K. REPORTING**

### **Dates for Submission of Financial Reports**

The ministry has established the following dates for submission of financial reports:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
June 30, 2022	School Board Estimates for 2022–23
November 15, 2022	School Board Financial Statements for 2021–22
December 15, 2022	School Board Revised Estimates for 2022–23
May 15, 2023	School Board Financial Report for September 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

## Rural and Northern Education Funding (RNEF) – Schools List

By June 30, 2022, school boards must submit to the ministry the list of all the additional schools, approved by board of trustees' motion, to be eligible to spend the RNEF Allocation on these specific schools. Please submit these motions along with the list of these additional schools to [EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca](mailto:EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca) including the school name, School Facilities Inventory System (SFIS) number, Campus ID, Board School Identification number (BSID) and panel (elementary/secondary). **Please include "RNEF" in the subject line of your email.**

## L. INFORMATION RESOURCES

If you require further information, please contact:

Subject	Contact	Email
Broadband	Teresa Allen	<a href="mailto:teresa.allen@ontario.ca">teresa.allen@ontario.ca</a>
Capital Renewal	Andrea Dutton	<a href="mailto:andrea.dutton@ontario.ca">andrea.dutton@ontario.ca</a>
Capital Priorities, Site Acquisition, Project Accountability and Child Care Capital	Paul Bloye	<a href="mailto:paul.bloye@ontario.ca">paul.bloye@ontario.ca</a>
Central Labour Agreements	Cory Mitic	<a href="mailto:cory.mitic@ontario.ca">cory.mitic@ontario.ca</a>
Curriculum and Assessment Implementation and Additional Educational Software Licensing	Jennifer Chan	<a href="mailto:jennifer.chan3@ontario.ca">jennifer.chan3@ontario.ca</a>
Executive Compensation	Colleen Hogan	<a href="mailto:colleen.hogan@ontario.ca">colleen.hogan@ontario.ca</a>
Financial Accountability, Reporting Requirements, and Regional Internal Audit	Med Ahmadoun	<a href="mailto:med.ahmadoun@ontario.ca">med.ahmadoun@ontario.ca</a>
French-language Education	Anne-Sophie Leduc	<a href="mailto:annesophie.leduc@ontario.ca">annesophie.leduc@ontario.ca</a>
Indigenous Education	Taunya Paquette	<a href="mailto:taunya.paquette@ontario.ca">taunya.paquette@ontario.ca</a>
Online Learning	Laurie McNelles	<a href="mailto:laurie.mcnelles2@ontario.ca">laurie.mcnelles2@ontario.ca</a>
Operating Funding Modelling (including Benefits Trusts Funding Model)	Paul Duffy	<a href="mailto:paul.duffy@ontario.ca">paul.duffy@ontario.ca</a>
Operating Funding Policy (including Benefits Trusts Policy)	Romina Di Pasquale	<a href="mailto:romina.dipasquale@ontario.ca">romina.dipasquale@ontario.ca</a>
Professionalism, Teaching Policy and Standards	Anshoo Kamal	<a href="mailto:anshoo.kamal@ontario.ca">anshoo.kamal@ontario.ca</a>

Subject	Contact	Email
Regional Offices and French as a Second Language	Hanca Chang	<a href="mailto:hanca.chang2@ontario.ca">hanca.chang2@ontario.ca</a>
Special Education	Claudine Munroe	<a href="mailto:claudine.munroe@ontario.ca">claudine.munroe@ontario.ca</a>
Student Achievement	Dianne Oliphant	<a href="mailto:dianne.oliphant@ontario.ca">dianne.oliphant@ontario.ca</a>
Student Mental Health	Shirley Kendrick	<a href="mailto:shirley.kendrick@ontario.ca">shirley.kendrick@ontario.ca</a>
Student Transportation	Mehul Mehta	<a href="mailto:mehul.mehta@ontario.ca">mehul.mehta@ontario.ca</a>
Student Well-Being and Parent Engagement	Suzanne Gordon	<a href="mailto:suzanne.gordon@ontario.ca">suzanne.gordon@ontario.ca</a>

General questions regarding the GSN release can be emailed to: [EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca](mailto:EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca).

## M. OTHER GSN MATERIALS

For further information, please see GSN Projections for the 2022–23 School Year, which are available on the [Education Funding webpage](#). The GSN Technical Paper will be released in the coming weeks.

## N. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Some of the elements and proposals set out in this memo can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Minister of Education or Lieutenant Governor in Council under the *Education Act* or other legislation as required. Such regulations have not yet been made. Therefore, the content of this memo should be considered subject to such regulations, if and when made.

In closing, the ministry would like to thank you and acknowledge the continued, ongoing and extraordinary work of school board teams to support students, families and the broader community, especially while navigating the unique challenges of the recent school years. We remain committed to working closely with you to facilitate the next school year, with the best interest of Ontario's students in mind.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Andrew Davis  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education Labour and Finance Division