

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

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Toronto ON M7A 2A5**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

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Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2A5**2021: B10**

**Date:** May 4, 2021

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

**From:** Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

**Subject:** **2021-22 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF)**

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I am writing to provide you with information about the Ministry of Education's Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) for 2021-22. These projections are being released in conjunction with the 2021-22 Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

Ontario continues to modernize education funding to deliver a sustainable and world-class system so students can succeed in school and beyond – while ensuring investments have the greatest impact in the classroom, and on students, as the province continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PPF is supplemental to the GSN and is reviewed and assessed by the ministry each year.

**COVID-19 SUPPORTS**

Although the evolving public health landscape is difficult to predict, we recognize that the next school year may require similar health and safety measures as those implemented this year. To support the continued safe operation of schools in 2021-22, the ministry will continue to provide temporary ongoing COVID-19 funding supports to school boards.

COVID-19 related funding will be allocated for such items as staffing to support the delivery of smaller cohorts, cleaning, remote learning, student transportation, learning recovery and renewal, special education, mental health and well-being. For further details on COVID-19 resources for 2021-22 through both the GSN and PPF, please see the May 4, 2021: B07 memo from Minister Lecce and Deputy Minister Naylor, Planning for the 2021-22 School Year.

## TRANSFERS TO GSN

To further support the ministry's efforts to streamline funding while also reducing administrative burden for transfer payment recipients, some existing PPF allocations have been transferred into the GSN beginning in 2021-22. The ministry is pleased to provide continuity of funding for these programs through the GSN funding mechanism. Additional details regarding these allocations can be found in the 2021-22 GSN materials, including the B Memo and technical paper:

1. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) (Base Funding) – \$23.6 million
2. After School Skills Development (ASSD) Programs – \$6.1 million
3. Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) – \$1.44 million

The Central Employer Bargaining Agent Fees Allocation within the GSN is being revised to better reflect the trustees' associations' cost structures since the introduction of the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014* (SBCBA). As part of this revision, the Central Employer Bargaining Agency Fees – Supplemental (\$1.2 million) PPF is being transferred and consolidated within the existing Central Employer Bargaining Agency Fees Allocation within the GSN.

The ministry intends to continue reviewing opportunities for additional transfers in future years.

## FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

For 2021-22, the PPF will provide over \$288 million in funding to education partners to support students.

To facilitate school boards' budget planning for 2021-22, the ministry is confirming approximately \$122.2 million of PPF funding to school boards and school authorities to support ministry priorities. Within this amount:

- \$60.1 million is allocated by program and by school board in this memorandum (see **Appendix A**); and
- \$62.1 million has been allocated by program, with school board allocations to be confirmed later in the year.

## TRANSFER PAYMENT ADMINISTRATION

For the upcoming school year, the ministry will continue to provide school boards with integrated (multi-project) Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs).

Starting in 2021-22, the ministry is adopting Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) as a new enterprise-wide system to manage TPAs. All 2021-22 PPF contracts will be released on the TPON system. TPON will provide school boards with a centralized digital system for all government

transfer payments, enabling further efficiencies in the administration and management of TPAs.

TPAs will be available on TPON following a brief period to allow for TPON registration and training sessions for PPF recipients. The ministry is implementing a phased approach in the adoption of TPON in order to support a smooth transition. Initially, TPON will be used for accessing and executing TPAs. Ministry program staff and board staff will continue to work on program implementation together. PPF payments will continue to be managed through the Education Financial Information System (EFIS). There will be no change in the process used to flow funds to school boards. Once PPF TPA execution has been established through TPON, reporting will be the next phase to be added; school boards should expect that report-backs for PPF TPAs will be migrated to this digital system throughout the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

### **Access to the Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) System**

To access and approve 2021-22 PPF TPAs, school board staff must have registered accounts and complete training on the new TPON system. Over the next few weeks, ministry staff will deliver several training sessions to demonstrate the use and functionality of TPON, as well as respond to any questions and concerns.

Please see **Appendix B** for additional details and information on how to create an account on TPON and register for upcoming training sessions.

We appreciate your support in this transition to the TPON system for PPF contracts with the ministry.

### **PPF PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS**

PPF priority themes are outlined in the following table, with further program details below:  
Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

| Key Priority                     | Objective  | Amount  |
|----------------------------------|--|---------|
| Engaging Parents and Communities | To involve parents and communities in their children’s education and in program decision-making. Parents and communities will be vital partners in Ontario’s online learning and equity initiatives. | \$2.47M |
| French-Language Education        | To provide opportunities, tailored supports, and multimedia resources to students in Ontario’s French-Language Education (FLE) system guided by the <i>Aménagement linguistique policy</i> .         | \$0.12M |

| Key Priority                    | Objective  | Amount   |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|
| Indigenous Education            | 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.              | \$6.61M  |
| Math                            | To support Ontario's students in meeting provincial math standards.  | \$44.32M |
| Mental Health and Well-Being    | To support the critical linkage between mental health and well-being and student success. Also provides students with physical health and safety supports.   | \$9.50M  |
| Special Education               | To improve support for children and youth with special education needs and their families and educators.   | \$1.86M  |
| Student Pathways                | To support students as they transition to postsecondary destinations, including apprenticeship, college, university, and the workplace.  | \$14.64M |
| Supporting Student Potential    | To support vulnerable students, including youth at risk, to stay in school, graduate and succeed. This also includes equity initiatives, and anti-racism and de-streaming supports.                                  | \$19.01M |
| System Support and Efficiencies | To provide support to help ensure that the education system is running efficiently and effectively, including labour-related commitments, broadband, administrative efficiencies, and teacher professional learning. | \$23.67M |

Descriptions of the initiatives under these PPF themes are below. Where available at this time, school board allocations are provided in Appendix A. Some school board allocations will be confirmed at a later date.

### **Engaging Parents and Communities**

#### *Parents Reaching Out Grants (\$2.47M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

These grants will support parents in identifying barriers and opportunities to strengthen parent engagement in their own communities and enable more parents to support their child's learning and well-being.

## **French-Language Education**

*Implementation of Aménagement linguistique initiatives and strategies to retain and engage students (\$0.12M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Funding to assist French-language school boards in the implementation of aménagement linguistique initiatives in French-language schools in Ontario with a view to engage students and develop their sense of belonging to the French-language school system and their community.

## **Indigenous Education**

*Indigenous Graduation Coach (\$3.92M)*

The Indigenous Graduation Coach Program provides funding to targeted district school boards for the recruitment of Indigenous Graduation Coaches to support Indigenous students in obtaining an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and successfully transition into post-secondary education, training or labour market opportunities.

*Rapid Response Northern Schools Team (\$0.80M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

The Rapid Response Northern Schools Team (RRNST) is a trained, trauma-informed team comprised of board-employed, certified educators, administrators and related positions (e.g., Elders) to respond to urgent requests made by remote First Nation communities experiencing a temporary crisis. The RRNST can be mobilized and deployed quickly upon the request of a First Nation to keep classrooms and schools open in remote First Nation communities and support the academic success and well-being of students.

*Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) (\$0.27M)*

AYEP gives Grade 11 and 12 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students in identified school boards an opportunity to earn two senior business studies credits through a program based on the Ontario business studies curriculum and supplemented by Indigenous content, hands-on activities, guest speakers and business mentors, and funding opportunities. Students develop entrepreneurial skills and learn how to create and establish their own small business.

*Keewatin Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) / Keewaytinook Okimakanak Board of Education (KOB) (\$0.21M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

KPDSB second a principal to support the capacity development of educators and administrators in partnering with First Nation-operated schools to support First Nation students' success and well-being as they transition from remote and fly-in communities, as young as age 12, into provincially funded schools.

*“Anishinaabemodaa” – “Let’s speak Ojibwe” Initiative (\$1.41M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

The Rainy River District School Board (RRDSB), the Seven Generations Education Institute and SayITFirst work in partnership to develop pathways for Ojibwe speakers to become Early Childhood Education workers and certified classroom teachers. With progress, the focus will shift to developing early education language programming, with the goal of creating a cohort of children ready for immersion programming. To date, the initiative has helped to sustain and expand language learning in ten First Nation communities associated with the initiative.

## **Math**

*Math Strategy (\$40.32M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Funding to support additional board and school positions to support student math performance. Board-based math learning leads will support the implementation of the new de-streamed Grade 9 math course, in addition to continuing to support the implementation of the elementary math curriculum. School-based math learning facilitators are a targeted support for those schools demonstrating the greatest need. In September 2021, the Ministry of Education will begin the process of ending early streaming of math for students in Grade 9 and will work with school boards as they transition students into a de-streamed Grade 9 math course.

*Math Strategy – Additional Qualifications (\$4.00M)*

Funding for school boards to subsidize Additional Qualifications courses in math for educators. 2021-22 will be year three of a \$20 million allocation over five-years. This program is application-based. To receive this funding, please submit an [application](#) by June 30, 2021.

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

*Well-Being and Mental Health Bundle (\$3.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Funding to support school boards and authorities to meet local needs and priorities that promote well-being and mental health, including safe, healthy, inclusive and accepting learning environments. This funding enables school boards and authorities to support activities in their improvement and multi-year strategic plans, as well as their three-year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, and annual Action Plan for Mental Health.

*School Mental Health Ontario (SMH-ON) (\$6.50M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

As part of the government’s commitment to build a comprehensive and connected multi-year mental health and addictions system across the lifespan, funding for School Mental Health Ontario (SMH-ON) will continue. SMH-ON will receive \$6.5 million in 2020-21 to provide implementation support to all 72 district school boards through clinical expertise, evidence-based resources/practical tools for educators, and the delivery of consistent professional learning to school-based mental health clinicians.

## Special Education

### *Educators Autism Additional Qualification (AQ) Subsidy (\$1.01M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Continuation of funding will support teacher participation in the Teaching Students with Communication Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder) AQ Course. Boards applied in 2019-20 for funding over three years.

### *Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with ASD (\$0.37M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Continuation of funding to support the provision of dedicated space on school site for external Applied Behaviour Analyst (ABA) practitioners to provide direct service to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 11 pilot school boards.

### *Developmental Disabilities Pilot: Student Transitions (\$0.48M)*

Pilot to support select school boards to explore successful practices in transitioning students with developmental disabilities to work through the use of an intensive job-placement program.

## Student Pathways

### *Expansion of Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) (\$13.20M)*

Application-based funding to support expansion of the number of programs and student enrolment in the 13 sectors identified as having the strongest focus on technological education and the skilled trades<sup>1</sup>. Applications for 2021-22 funding were submitted by school boards in February 2021. As part of this expansion, funding will also be provided to support current and expanded SHSM Dual Credit programs with a technological education and skilled trades focus. This year will be the first of the three-year expansion; boards may choose to apply for this funding in any or all of the three years.

### *The Learn and Work Bursary Program (\$0.44M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

The Learn and Work Bursary Program provides a bursary to vulnerable and underserved students in 18 school boards who are enrolled in a cooperative education program and have financial and other barriers to completing the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Eligible students would be identified by guidance teams based on the selection criteria.

### *The Skilled Trades Bursary Program (\$1.00M)*

The new Skilled Trades Bursary Program provides a bursary to students that complete two credits in a cooperative education program working in a skilled trades placement, have plans to pursue a post-secondary skilled trades pathway and have financial and other barriers to completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Eligible students would be identified by guidance teams based on the selection criteria.

<sup>1</sup> The 13 identified sectors are Agriculture, Aviation and Aerospace, Construction, Environment, Energy, Food Processing, Forestry, Horticulture and Landscaping, Hospitality and Tourism, ICT, Manufacturing, Mining and Transportation.

## **Supporting Student Potential**

### *Graduation Coach Program for Black Students (\$2.94M)*

This funding is focused on addressing systemic barriers to achievement and well-being and supporting the success of Black students. The program involves providing intensive, culturally-responsive support to Black students and hiring graduation coaches with connections to Black communities to act as mentors to Black students, with the assistance of school staff and board leadership.

### *Transportation Supports for Children and Youth in Care (\$6.60 M)*

To improve the educational outcomes and well-being of children and youth in care, funding for transportation services enables students to stay in their school of origin when their residence changes until a more natural transition time, so they have stability at school, can focus on their learning, and maintain academic standing and graduate.

### *Human Rights and Equity Advisors (\$3.24M)*

Funding for select school boards to employ Human Rights and Equity Advisors (HREAs) who work with the Director of Education and with the board's senior team to foster a culture of respect for human rights and equity, help identify and address systemic human rights and equity issues and increase the board's compliance with human rights law.

### *Demographic Data Gathering (\$2.50M)*

Collecting and analyzing demographic data to gain a clearer understanding of who Ontario students and staff are in order to enable school and system leaders to more precisely apply resources to support student success and better-informed hiring decisions.

### *Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy (\$0.59M)*

Funding to support an approach that is used to address disparities in student achievement and well-being by creating equitable and respectful learning environments that develop student responsibility, citizenship, and community engagement.

### *Guidance and Career Education Additional Qualifications Subsidies (\$0.69M)*

Application-based funding will be available to support school boards to subsidize Guidance and Career Education additional qualification (AQ) courses for eligible teachers that are registered with the Ontario College of Teachers and self-identify as Black, Indigenous or racialized and complete one of the following:

- Guidance and Career Education – Part 1
- Guidance and Career Education – Part 2
- Guidance and Career Education Specialist

School boards may apply for this funding using an [online form](#).



*Pilot to Support Early Intervention in Math for Students with Special Education Needs (Grades 4-6) (\$2.45M)*

The funding is intended to support school boards in implementing early interventions in Math for students with special education needs. The focus will be on grades 4-6, with a goal of increasing student engagement, preventing learning gaps, and supporting students to prepare for de-streamed Grade 9 math. Funding and application details will be made available soon.

## **System Support and Efficiencies**

*Broadband Modernization Program (BMP) (\$8.37M)*

Funding to provide access to reliable, fast, secure and affordable internet services to all students and educators in schools across Ontario – including those in rural and northern communities. The current target connectivity speed is 1 megabit per second (Mbps) per student or educator, in a secure, scalable and sustainable network that can adapt to future needs following a common network architecture across the province.

*New Teacher Induction Program - Enhancing Teacher Development Fund (NTIP-ETD) (\$1.00M)*

The NTIP-ETD supplements the GSN funding formula by providing funded support for boards who experience a significant increase in the number of new permanent hires from the previous year and/or have new hires past Year 2 on the Teacher Qualifications and Experience Grid. Boards apply to the ministry for funding if either of these categories impact their ability to support the development of their new teachers. For some boards this funding is critical to the delivery of NTIP as these new teachers must be supported and are required to successfully complete two teacher performance appraisals.

*Learning and Innovation Fund for Teachers (\$3.50M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

These funds will enable school boards to support teacher collaboration, learning and sharing of effective practices within schools, within boards and across the province. Further program details will be communicated to boards.

*Excellence in Education Administration Fund (\$10.80M)*

The ministry will continue its focus on efficiency and excellence in education administration through the Excellence in Education Administration Fund (EEAF). The EEAF supports school boards in driving modernization and transformation by reviewing their operations with a goal of finding efficiencies while making sure vital programs and services are protected. The EEAF is available to all 72 district school boards and any district school boards that has not participated in the EEAF program to date, will be required to submit a report to the ministry by August 31, 2022. The ministry will be sharing further details through school board transfer payment agreements shortly.

## **UNDERSPENDING OF 2020-21 PPF FUNDS**

While repurposing of 2019-20 PPF was permitted for emerging COVID-related supports, this approach is not being replicated for 2020-21 PPF funds, given the additional COVID-related investments that have been issued via both GSN and PPF to support students in the 2020-21 school year.

All PPF funds should be spent for the original purpose that is intended and articulated in signed transfer payment agreements. Unspent 2020-21 PPF funds must be recovered by the ministry and will not be available for repurposing or carrying forward.

The ministry will continue to work closely with the sector to support student needs in the 2021-22 school year.

## **NEXT STEPS**

If you require further information about the 2021-22 PPF initiatives, please contact your ministry program contacts or the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the program.

The ministry looks forward to continuing our strong collaboration with education partners. Working together, we are supporting Ontario's children and students to maximize their performance and well-being.

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Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister of Education

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A – School Board Funding Allocations

Appendix B – Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) System: Registration, Training and FAQs

- c: Superintendents of Business and Finance
- Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
  - Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
  - Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
  - Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
  - Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
  - Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
  - General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
  - General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
  - General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
  - Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
  - Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
  - Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
  - Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
  - Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
  - Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)