2007-08 Grants for Student Needs

OVERVIEW

March 19th
Purpose

• To provide school boards and other key stakeholders with an overview of the major elements proposed for the Grants for Students Needs (GSN) in 2007-08.

It should be noted that the information in this presentation is provided in advance of the release of a regulation which governs grants to school boards within their 2007-2008 fiscal year.

The initiatives and investments described herein must be implemented by, and are conditional upon, the approval of this regulation by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The Ministry intends to seek approval for such a regulation in April 2007 and will advise you if such a regulation is approved.
Overview

- Education funding through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) in 2007-08 will be $18.26B. This is:
  - $781M (4.5%) more than in 2006-07; and
  - $3.5B (24%) more than in the 2002-03 school year.

[Bar graph showing GSN funding from 2002-03 to 2007-08 with increasing amounts each year.]

reach every student

appuyer chaque élève
Overview

- Per Pupil funding in 2007-08 will rise to over $9,400. This is an increase of over:
  - $460 (5.1%) per pupil from the 2006-07 school year; and
  - $2,060 (28%) per pupil from the 2002-03 school year.
Overview

• The government has undertaken four years of funding reforms, including in 2007-08 three new grants/allocations:
  
  – Program Enhancement Grant
  
  – First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement
  
  – Supported Schools Allocation
New Grant Components:  
Program Enhancement Grant

• A new $35M Program Enhancement Grant to support programs and activities such as arts, music, physical education and outdoor education.

• Funding is calculated on a per-school basis ($7,500 per school), however boards have flexibility to decide how to use this funding within their jurisdictions.

• This grant may be used to fund or enrich existing programs or to offer new programs.
New Grant Components:
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement

• A new First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement. Through this grant the Ministry will allocate $10.5M as follows:
  – $3.6M to fund Native Languages programs offered in any of the seven Native Languages recognized in the Ontario curriculum;
  – $1.4M to fund Native Studies courses; and
  – $5.5M using per Aboriginal student amount that directs more funding to boards with a higher proportion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.
New Grant Components: Supported Schools Allocation

- The Supported Schools Allocation expands school-based support to benefit small Ontario communities where schools have low enrolment and are a significant distance from other schools of the board.

- "Supported schools" will be defined as
  - elementary schools that are 30 km or more from other elementary schools of the board
  - secondary schools that are 60 km or more from other secondary schools of the board
New Grant Components: Supported Schools Allocation, cont’d

• Funding for teacher staffing will be provided as follows:
  – Supported elementary schools with 50 or more students will generate funding to guarantee a minimum of 7.5 teachers.
  – Supported secondary schools with 50 or more students will generate funding to guarantee a minimum of 14 teachers.
  – As enrolment increases, these schools will continue to receive additional funding for teachers beyond funding model standards, to reflect the potential travel by specialist teachers to deliver the programs.
  – Funding for teachers will be scaled for supported schools with enrolments between 1 and 49 students.
Support for Ongoing Reform: Special Education

• $25M in additional Special Education funding to provide stable funding levels for boards and to support growth in the number of claims for the highest needs students as work continues on developing a new funding approach. This additional funding will be allocated to:
  – Provide stable funding in the High Needs Amount (HNA) for boards with declining enrolment, and an increase in HNA funding for boards with enrolment growth;
  – Support an increase to the number of highest needs students accessing support through the Special Incidence Portion (SIP); and
  – Address increased need in the special education sector by supporting growth in the Special Equipment Amount (SEA).
Support for Ongoing Reform:
Student Transportation

- 2% benchmark increase ($15M)
- Increased funding to recognize enrolment increases for growth boards and no decrease for declining enrolment boards ($3M)
- Continuation of school bus safety programming ($1.5M)
- Ministry will continue to conduct Effectiveness and Efficiency (E&E) reviews of established consortia and will make funding adjustments based on the findings.
- In 2006-07, the Ministry will provide an additional $7.6M through in-year adjustments to boards that were included in the first phase of the E&E reviews.
- Investments build on the government's commitment to the three-year reform approach for student transportation, announced as part of the 2006-07 GSN.
Support for Student Achievement: Primary Class Size (PCS)

- Additional $100M investment for another 1,200 new teachers

- In 2007-08, the province's total investment in the PCS Reduction Amount will be $386M.

- Funding to support more than $700M of PCS capital has been allocated to school boards
  - These funds will be used by school boards to build or acquire over 1,900 new classrooms.
Support for Student Achievement: Primary Class Size (PCS) Compliance

• School boards will be expected, beginning in 2007-08, to organize their primary classes so that at least 90 per cent of primary classes have 20 or fewer students.
  – No primary class should have more than 23 students.

• Where a school board feels it may not be able to meet this standard in 2007-08, the board may apply to the Ministry for transitional program equivalency, under the following circumstances:
  – Where students may not be safely accommodated in classrooms until capital projects are complete;
  – To support boards in fully implementing PCS for programs, such as French Immersion or other speciality programs; and
  – To support boards that may, as a result of having a relatively large proportion of small elementary schools, require additional time to prepare.
Support for Student Achievement: Labour Framework

• $421M for a 3.0% benchmark funding increase for teacher and non-teacher salaries in 2007-08

• $28M for 380 elementary specialist teachers

• $21M for over 320 secondary Student Success teachers

• $14M to cover that portion of the increase in teachers’ preparation time (3 minutes) that school boards had originally agreed to fund from their own resources.
New Investments: French-Language School Boards

$10M to French-language school boards, reflecting the government’s multi-year funding strategy for French-language school boards, to support:

- One additional teacher per French-language board to support innovative delivery of secondary programs;

- Additional secondary teachers for French-language schools based on school size, in order to increase unique course offerings; and

- Increasing the elementary per-pupil amount in the French as a First Language component of the Language Grant.
New Investments: 
Student Trustee Honorarium

• The Ministry will provide, through the School Board Administration and Governance Grant:
  – 50 per cent of the student trustee honorarium ($1,250) based on the actual number of student trustees per board (maximum of 3 student trustees); and
  – $5,000 per student trustee for expenses.

• This approach is consistent with current provisions for funding the remuneration and expenses of regular trustees. The Ministry will start to provide this funding in the current (2006-07) school year.
New Investments: Utilities Pressures

• To address the cost of energy and utilities, an additional $7M in funding will be provided in 2007-08.

• This represents a 1 per cent increase in the non-salary component of the School Operations Grant.
School Capital Programs: Good Places to Learn (GPL)

- In 2007-08, the Ministry will proceed with GPL Stage 3 to provide school boards with support for an additional $500M worth of renewal projects.
  - GPL Stage 3 allocations will be finalized by September 2007, following PTR allocations.

- The Ministry will continue to work with the Ontario Financing Authority (OFA) in 2007-08 to provide long-term financing for the remaining GPL Stage 1 and Stage 2 renewal projects.
School Capital Programs: Long-Term Financing Vehicle for Capital Programs

- The Ministry is working with the OFA to establish a provincial vehicle, similar to that used for GPL Renewal, to provide long-term financing for approximately $1.5B of construction costs incurred by school boards under the following capital programs:
  - Prohibitive to Repair*
  - Primary Class Size Capital
  - Growth Schools
  - Capital Transitional Adjustment for French-language boards*

* Includes unbuilt projects from prior year allocations.
School Capital Programs: Long-Term Financing Vehicle for Capital Programs, cont’d

- **Short-term financing**
  - Boards will be reimbursed for their short-term interest costs incurred on projects that are underway.

- **Long-term financing**
  - Boards will be permitted to access long-term financing for projects supported by these four capital programs at the maximum principal amount allocated to their board, by program.

- The Ministry expects that the first issuance of long-term financing will occur later in the 2007-08 school year.
School Capital Programs: 2007-08 Growth Schools Allocation

- To provide school boards with better access to funding through the Growth Schools Allocation of the Pupil Accommodation Grant, the Ministry has expanded the eligibility criteria. In 2007-08 the criteria will be:
  - The planned school is needed for the 2007-08 or the 2008-09 school years; and
  - The planned school is projected to be at an average utilization of 80 per cent or greater over a 10-year period beginning in the second year of the operation of the school.
School Capital Programs: Disposition of Surplus Properties

- Information provided by school boards through the Ministry's School Facilities Inventory System indicates that there are a significant number of schools that are no longer being used for elementary or secondary education and may be surplus to board needs.

- The Ministry will consult with school boards on a process to address the disposition of surplus schools.
Financial Reporting & Due Date for Submission of Estimates

Consultation about definition of "balanced budget"

• The Ministry will be consulting with school boards about changing the definition of a balanced budget under the Education Act for the 2008-09 school year to align with Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) principles.
Financial Reporting & Due Date for Submission of Estimates

- The Ministry has established the following dates for submission of financial reports in the 2007-08 school year:
  - **June 29, 2007**: Board Estimates for 2007-08
  - **November 30, 2007**: Board Revised Estimates for 2007-08
  - **December 14, 2007**: Board Financial Statements for 2006-07

- The Ministry expects that Estimates forms, including the Board Budget Workbook, will be available on EFIS before the end of March 2007.
Investments Outside the GSN

• In 2007-08, the Government will continue to support other important initiatives with investments outside the GSN, including:
  – Literacy & Numeracy;
  – Student Success;
  – Official Languages in Education;
  – MISA;
  – New Teachers Induction Program;
  – Parent Engagement;
  – Safe Schools; and
  – Aboriginal Education among others.