

reach every student
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2009-10 Grants for Student Needs

OVERVIEW

March 27, 2009

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 2009-10.

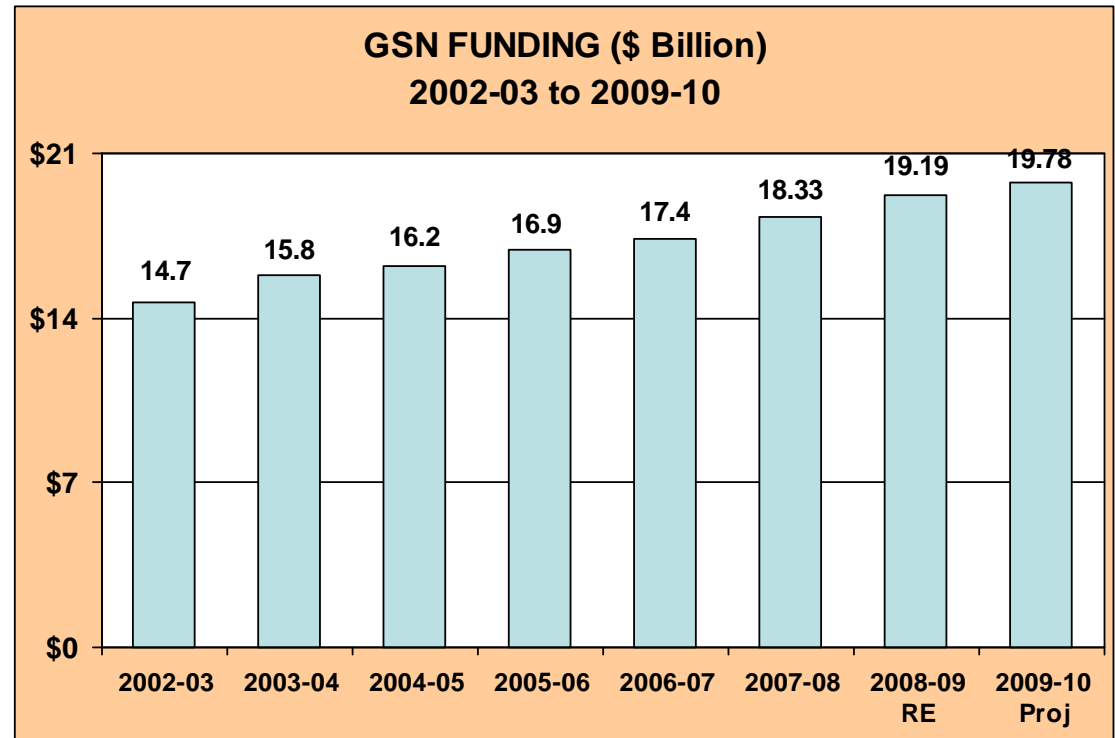
It should be noted that a regulation to govern grants to school boards in their 2009-10 fiscal year has not yet been made. The information in this presentation is provided in the absence of such a regulation.

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

The Ministry intends to seek such a regulation in April 2009 and will advise you if such a regulation is made.

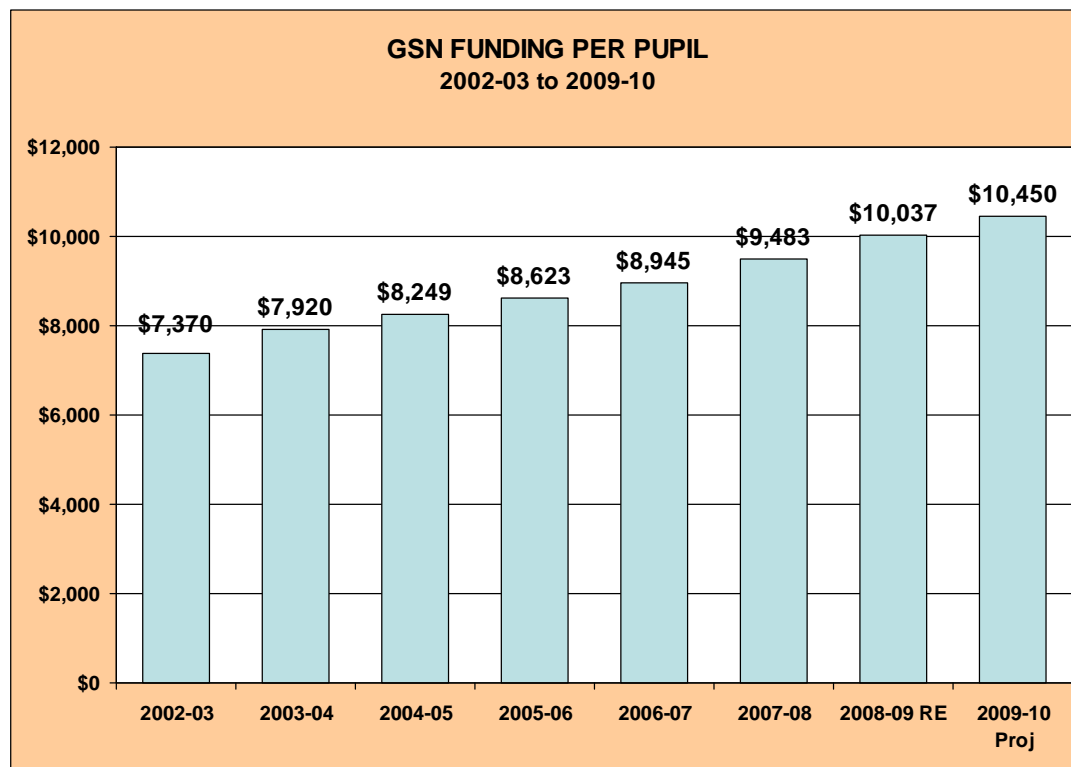
Overview – Total Funding

- The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) in 2009-10 is projected to be \$19.78B, or:
 - \$592M (3.1%) more than in 2008-09; and
 - more than \$5B (34%) more than in the 2002-03 school year.



Overview – Per-pupil Funding

- Per-pupil funding in 2009-10 is projected to rise to \$10,450. This is an increase of:
 - \$414 (4.1%) per pupil compared to the 2008-09 school year;
 - more than \$3,000 per pupil (42%) compared to the 2002-03 school year.



Provincial Labour Discussions – Update

- The Provincial Framework Agreements (PFAs) now cover all 475 collective agreements.
- Almost 400 of the 475 collective agreements covered by PFAs have been settled for the 2008-2012 period.
- Negotiations of the remaining collective agreements continue according to timelines that have been mutually agreed to by the parties involved.
- The figures in today's announcement assumes that all collective agreements have been ratified and are compliant with the PFAs.



More Elementary Teachers and Supports

- \$46.9M for 555 more funded **elementary specialist teachers** to support 10 additional minutes of prep time (0.42 additional teacher/1000 student in the Pupil Foundation Grant).
- \$10.7M for 126 funded **Grade 4-8 teachers** to reduce class sizes (0.18 additional teacher per 1000 Grade 4-8 students in the Pupil Foundation Grant).
- \$5.3M for more **supervision** to support changes to the number of supervision minutes for elementary teachers (increase of \$4.38 to the benchmark of \$22.23 in the Pupil Foundation Grant that was introduced in 2008-09).
- \$8.8M for increased **professional learning** for elementary teachers (increase the benchmark by \$7.24 per elementary student in the Pupil Foundation Grant).
- \$2.8M for improved working conditions for **Continuing Education and International Languages instructors**.

More Non-Teaching Staff

- 211 more funded **elementary school office support staff** for an increased adult presence in our schools (\$10.3M - benefits schools with over 250 students – schools with 1,000 or more students will be funded for an additional 0.25 FTE).
- 593 more funded **custodian** positions for a safer cleaner learning environment (\$36.3M - increase of \$1.41 in the cost per square meter benchmark in the School Operations Allocation).
- 400 more funded **professionals and para-professional staff** to provide direct services to students with special needs as well as to at-risk students (\$25.9M - 0.33 staff per 1,000 elementary students in the Pupil Foundation Grant).

More Secondary Staff

- 129 funded **secondary teachers** to support locally developed strategies to expand secondary programming over five years (\$11.3M - 0.19 additional teachers per 1000 secondary students added to the comparable investment introduced in 2008-09).



PFA Salaries & Benefits

- To support four more years of labour peace and stability, the costs for the new labour agreement are being funded, including the following increases for salary and benefits:
 - \$411.7M for all staff.

HNA Funding: more Targeted to Student Need

- Beginning in 2009-10, the High Needs Amount (HNA) of the Special Education Grant will change to move in the direction recommended by the Working Table on Special Education.
- Measures of Variability (MOV) will be introduced to better reflect the variability of high needs students and boards' ability to respond to these needs, in order to revise the HNA allocation without relying on a claims-based process.
- 5% of the HNA funding will be allocated through the MOV amount, based on data of the prevalence of special education programs and services; participation and achievement in EQAO assessments by students with special education needs; board size; and rural status.

Keeping up with Costs: School Operations

- The school operations benchmark of the School Operations Allocation will be increased by 2% to help boards manage the increases in commodity prices, such as natural gas and electricity, as well as insurance costs.
- This enhancement represents an increase of \$14.1M for 2009-10, bringing the total allocation to a projected \$1.88B.
- The Community Use of Schools Allocation will also be increased by \$0.5M to help cover the cost pressures of inflation, bringing the total allocation to \$27M.
- This increase will ensure that school space for after school activities continues to be affordable for all Ontario families.

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Keeping up with Costs: Transportation

- The cost benchmark for the Transportation Grant will be increased by 2% to help recognize higher fuel, capital and other operating costs. Boards with a transportation surplus equal to, or greater than the 2% cost benchmark increase, will not be eligible for this enhancement.
- This represents an increase of \$10.7M, bringing the total Transportation Grant to \$829M.
- New for 2009-10, a Fuel Escalation/De-Escalation Clause has been added to the funding formula.
- This clause will help provide boards with additional funding stability despite the market volatility of fuel prices.
- Details on the Fuel Escalation/De-Escalation mechanism will be provided to the sector through a Ministry memorandum.

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Process Improvements: Better Business Practices

- In 2009-10, the Ministry will continue to conduct Operational Reviews of district school boards that will:
 - strengthen management capacity in non-academic operations;
 - highlight and lever successful business practices; and
 - provide support and assistance to ensure that school boards are financially healthy, well-managed, and positioned to support student success.
- In 2009-10, the Ministry will continue to focus on Student Transportation reforms that strengthen management capacity through:
 - consultant visits to consortia workshops on best business practices;
 - pilots and sector-wide training on competitive procurement processes;
 - Effectiveness and Efficiency (E&E) reviews of consortia operations, service delivery, and resets of funding levels.

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Process Improvements: Expert Panel on Capital

- The Ministry has established an Expert Panel on Capital Standards made up of school board officials with recent experience in the design/construction/management of school facilities.
- The Panel is expected to report by the Summer 2009 and will:
 - identify leading practices in school design and construction;
 - identify “reference schools” that can serve as exemplars for repeat designs;
 - advise on space standards and cost benchmarks;
 - advise on capital project management; and
 - advise on a variety of green initiatives.
- The Panel’s work will be informed by consultations with key education stakeholders, ministries, and other partners including municipalities, architects, construction/contractor associations, and green consultants.

Process Improvements: Enhanced Audit Function

- Multi-year funding support is being provided to boards to establish internal audit capacity.
- This investment will:
 - Increase the focus on accountability and transparency;
 - Improve fiscal oversight for a sector that manages budgets totalling more than \$19B.
- \$2M will be provided to boards in 2009-10, growing to \$5M annually in subsequent years.
- The Ministry will consult with the sector on the best approach to implementing this initiative.



2009-10 Savings Measures

- **Textbooks:** \$25M ongoing reduction in textbook funding by lowering the benchmark in the Pupil Foundation Grant to \$69.00 per elementary student and \$92.29 per secondary student.
- **Computers:** \$25M reduction in funding for computers in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11 by lowering the benchmark in the Pupil Foundation Grant to \$34.52 per elementary student and \$45.03 per secondary student.
- **Transportation:** Route reductions of 1% each year for three years applied to boards with routing and technology ratings that are below “high”.

2009-10 Savings Measures

- **Staff Development:** Savings of \$44.5M in staff development funding in 2009-10. Savings will be found through the Pupil Foundation Grant and selected special purpose grants (the Special Education Grant, the Learning Opportunities Grant. Funding will be partially restored to the Pupil Foundation Grant in 2010-11.
- **Declining Enrolment Adjustment:** The DEA grant will be refined and simplified. The overall funding provided through this grant will be scaled down by \$5.8M to better recognize the declining enrolment protection available through other allocations.



Savings Measures Beginning in 2010-11

- **Facilities Top-Up:** Top-up funding for schools with enrolment below capacity, will be reduced to a maximum of 18% of a school's capacity in 2010-11, and 15% of capacity in 2011-12. New schools with excess capacity, including those opened in 2009-10, will qualify for top-up funding only after a 5 year period has elapsed.
- **Board Administration:** Ministry will be reducing funding for board administration by \$8.7M, beginning in 2010-11.
- **Transportation “Hold Harmless”:** Stable funding guarantee for declining boards will continue, but will be based on 50% of the board's change in enrolment.

Transfers into GSN: Parent Engagement

- With Ministry support, school boards have been implementing a wide range of parent engagement initiatives that support student achievement.
- School boards are allocated \$3.1M annually based on the following formula: \$5,000 per board + \$0.17/student for board parent council committee + \$500 per school council.
- This formula-based funding is being moved into the GSN's Board Administration and Governance Grant to provide boards with a source of stable base funding.

Transfers out of GSN:

Community Use of Schools Outreach Coordinators

- Funding for Outreach Coordinators was introduced as part of the 2008-09 GSN to help ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of local Community Use of Schools (CUS) programs.
- In addition to working with existing groups that currently use school facilities under CUS, Outreach Coordinators are expected to form partnerships with other school boards, municipalities, social service agencies, and others.
- Moving this funding (\$6.4M) into EPO will link it more directly to the recruitment and hiring of Outreach Coordinators.
- As recommended by the Declining Enrolment Working Group, boards will be encouraged to identify underutilized schools that could provide opportunities for engaging community partners. Outreach Coordinators will be an important resource for supporting the shared use of our schools.

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Due Date for Submissions

- The Ministry has established the following dates for submission of financial reports in the 2009-10 school year:
 - **June 30, 2009:** Board Estimates for 2009-10
 - **November 13, 2009:** Board Financial Statements for 2008-09
 - **December 15, 2009:** Board Revised Estimates for 2009-10
 - **May 15, 2010:** Board Financial Report for September 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010
- The Ministry expects that Estimates forms will be available on EFIS in early April, 2009.



Investments Outside the GSN

- As in previous years, the Government will continue to support other education initiatives with investments outside the GSN to support boards in advancing student achievement.
- Details will be announced in April 2009.