

# **2015-16 Grants for Student Needs**

## TECHNICAL BRIEFING

### **March 26, 2015**

# Purpose

- To provide school boards and other key stakeholders with an overview of the major new elements that make up the Grants for Students Needs (GSN) for 2015-16:
  1. School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) strategy;
  2. Keeping up with costs;
  3. Other Items;
  4. Capital;
  5. Working together.

**NOTE** that a regulation to govern grants to school boards in their 2015–16 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.

# Overview of 2015–16 GSN

- Projected to be stable year-over-year at \$22.46 billion, an average of \$11,451 per pupil.
- Continues to build efficiencies into the funding model by expanding SBEM incentives and supports for boards to make more efficient use of school space.
- This is a time to prioritize and align funding to best achieve Ontario's renewed goals for education:

## What GSN funding supports

- **Classrooms** (\$12.4B)
- **Schools** (\$3.8B)
- **Specific priorities** (\$4.0B)
- **Local management** (\$2.2B)

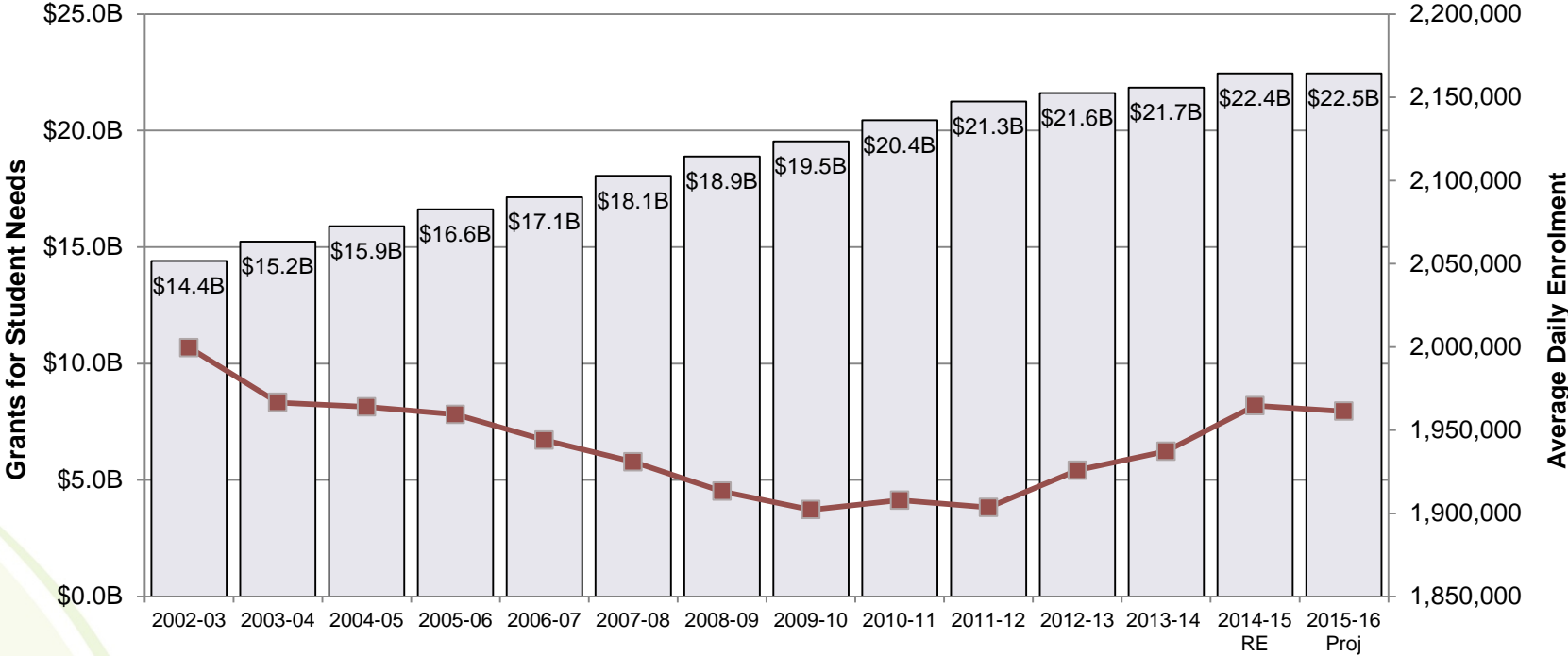
## The goals GSN funding helps achieve

- **Achieving Excellence**
- **Ensuring Equity**
- **Promoting Well-being**
- **Enhancing Public Confidence**

# Consultation

- The 2015–16 GSN reflects extensive consultations with school boards and a broad range of education stakeholders.
- Most recent education funding consultations with stakeholders were in the fall of 2014.
  - A summary of these consultations is now available on the Ministry website.
- Consultations on the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) also conducted in fall/winter of 2014/2015.

# Historic Context



*Note: To provide a clear year-over-year comparison, FDK funding, which was previously outside the GSN, has been added. The increase in enrolment is as a result of FDK.*

# 1. School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM)

# SBEM Strategy Launched

- SBEM was introduced in 2014-15 to provide incentives and supports for boards to make more efficient use of school space – an important priority for the province.

## What Stakeholders Said

Underutilized space is a significant issue.

Investments needed to realize savings over the longer term.

Continued and meaningful consultation with the education sector on a regular basis

## SBEM Pillars

Pillar 1: Further revisions to grants to incent boards to make more efficient use of school space, many phased in over three years.

Pillar 2: Revisions to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) to ensure boards have a more effective tool to address needs to consolidate facilities while continuing to ensure constructive public input.

Pillar 3: School Consolidation Capital (SCC) program funding.

Pillar 4: Capital Planning Capacity Program.

Pillar 5: Education funding consultations with stakeholders in the fall 2014. PARG consultations conducted in fall/winter 2014 and early 2015. Ministry will hold regional information sessions on the 2015–16 GSN for school board officials in Spring 2015.

# SBEM Strategy in 2015-16

- In 2015–16, the Ministry will broaden SBEM with measures to:
  - Further encourage the management of underutilized school space, while maintaining support for the schools that need it most; and
  - Update and modernize the funding formula.
- Changes to:
  1. Top-up funding, adjustment factors and cost benchmarks under the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant;
  2. School Foundation Grant;
  3. Geographic Circumstances Grant; and
  4. Declining Enrolment Adjustment.
- With the exception of the Declining Enrolment Adjustment, the changes introduced in 2015–16 will be phased in over three years.



# 1. School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant

## **Top-up funding and reinvestment (Three-year phase in)**

- Base Top-up funding phased out in three years.
  - Enhanced Top-up continues: Schools eligible under the new criteria in 2015–16 will be funded at 100 percent of capacity under the new allocation method.
    - New criteria for eligibility.
  - Portion of the funding released in each year of the phase out of Base Top-up will be reinvested in the per-pupil operating and renewal cost benchmarks.
    - This realignment is intended to redirect funding from underutilized space to serve pupils in all schools across the province.
  - In addition, three board-specific School Facility Operations and Renewal adjustment factors – geographic adjustment, facility age, supplementary area – will be updated to reflect current school inventory data.

# 1. School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant (continued)

## **New criteria for Enhanced Top-up (Three-year phase in)**

- Reduced distance threshold:

Elementary: Any elementary school facility is eligible that is at least 10 km away from any other school facility of the board (elementary or secondary).

Secondary: Any secondary school facility is eligible that is at least 20 km away from any other secondary school facility of the board.

- Current criteria used to determine eligibility for Enhanced Top-up funding will be phased out.

## 2. School Foundation Grant

### (Three-year phase in)

- New allocation model to recognize three different types of schools: supported, distant, and regular.
- Overall impact is a net investment in schools:
  - Increased support for secondary vice-principals, scaled at a rate of 1 FTE to 500 ADE, starting once a school is eligible for 1 principal FTE.
  - All combined schools – supported, distant, or regular – will receive funding for 1 additional principal FTE at a threshold of 350 students (with at least 100 elementary students and at least 100 secondary students)
    - Previous threshold was 300 elementary and 500 secondary students.
- New model is intended to redirect funding from very small schools that are not isolated to larger schools, remote schools, or schools that serve both elementary and secondary students.

# 3. Geographic Circumstances Grant

## (Three-year phase in)

### Remote and Rural & Rural and Small Community Allocations

- Updated factors in the Remote and Rural Allocation.
  - Changes will reflect more up-to-date geographic data, including more current road networks, population data, and urban centres with a population of at least 200,000
  - Distance factor will now be measured from the board head office instead of the geographic centre of the board.
- As the Ministry has both made investments and put in place protections for boards and schools in rural and remote communities, a decision has been made to phase out the Rural and Small Communities Allocation as part of a balanced overall package of changes.

### Supported Schools Allocation

- Elementary and secondary supported schools will generate funding for a minimum of one teacher.
- Funding through the Supported Schools Allocation for schools that generate sufficient funding for teachers ( $\geq 7.5$  elementary,  $\geq 14$  secondary) through the Pupil Foundation Grant will be eliminated.

# 4. Declining Enrolment Adjustment

## **(Full implementation in 2015–16)**

- Grant will be reduced to encourage school boards to adjust more quickly to declining enrolment:
  - The Remote and Rural Allocation and the per-pupil components of the School Board Administration and Governance Grant through the first year component of the Declining Enrolment Adjustment will be 50 percent rather than 100 percent.
  - The second year component will be 25 percent of the first year component.
  - The third year will be eliminated.

## 2. Keeping Up With Costs

# Making Investments

## Student Transportation

- Funding for student transportation will increase by 2 percent to help boards manage increased costs.
  - As in previous years, this cost update will be netted against a school board's transportation surplus.
- Starting in 2015–16, transportation services for residential students at English-language Provincial and Demonstration schools will be delivered by the Ministry's Provincial Schools Branch.
- The Ministry will work with school boards and transportation consortia to begin collecting and analyzing data to better understand student transportation delivery in Ontario.

## Utilities

- The non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark will again be increased by 2 percent to help boards manage increases in commodity prices.
- As in 2014-15, the electricity component of the benchmark will increase by 7.3% based on the Ministry of Energy's most recent Long-Term Energy Plan.

# 3. Other Items



# School Board Administration Funding

- The Ministry is continuing with the four-year implementation of the new School Board Administration and Governance Grant allocation model, as communicated in 2014-15.
- Under the new model, three of the Grant's allocations – the Directors and Supervisory Officers Allocation, the Board Administration Allocation, and the Multiple Municipalities Allocation – will become a single Board Administration Allocation made up of ten core functions. The remaining allocations in the Grant are unaffected.
- In 2015–16, 50 percent of the funding to boards is being generated using the 2013–14 allocation model, while the remaining 50 percent will be allocated by applying the new model parameters.

# Special Education

## High Needs Amount

- The Ministry is continuing with the four-year implementation of the new High Needs Amount (HNA) allocation model, as communicated in 2014-15. In 2015–16, the Ministry will:
  - Continue to eliminate the legacy HNA per-pupil amounts, which will only be funded at 50 percent in 2015–16.
  - Increase the proportion of funding that is allocated through both the HNA Measures of Variability Amount (MOV) and the Special Education Statistical Prediction Model (SESPM).
  - Maintain High Needs Base Amount for Collaboration and Integration at \$450,000 per board.
  - Maintain the current funding levels of the HNA allocation at \$1,050 million during this four-year transition. This will provide school boards with stability and it will mitigate projected enrolment declines in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

# Accountability

## Learning Opportunities Grant

- Six allocations in the Learning Opportunities Grant will be enveloped as a group starting in 2015–16:
  1. Literacy and Math Outside the School Day Allocation
  2. Student Success, Grades 7 to 12 Allocation
  3. Grade 7 and 8 Literacy and Numeracy and Student Success Teachers
  4. School Effectiveness Framework Allocation
  5. Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP) Tutoring Allocation
  6. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Allocation
- Purpose is to ensure these allocations, which directly support programs to improve student achievement, continue to be focussed on students and school effectiveness
- Enveloping applies to the sum of the six allocations, not to each allocation separately.
  - Does not replace current program reporting or evaluation requirements specific to any one of the allocations.
  - Does not apply to Demographic Allocation.

# Accountability (continued)

## Safe and Accepting Schools Supplement

- Ministry will introduce enhanced reporting requirements for the Safe and Accepting Schools Allocation.
  - These requirements will complement the reporting already in place for the Urban and Priority High Schools Allocation.

## Board Administration and Governance

- A board's net administration and governance expenses in a fiscal year must not exceed the administration and governance limit. The Ministry will be reviewing board compliance with this limit.

## FDK and Primary Class Size Compliance

- Starting with the 2014–15 results, the Ministry may take action, including applying GSN cash withholdings, if a board's FDK and primary class sizes are not in compliance with the Class Size regulation for two school years in a row.

# Education Programs - Other (EPO)

- The government will continue to support other education initiatives that advance student achievement with investments outside the GSN.
- Similar to last year, the ministry will release a B memo today to provide boards with funding allocations for their 2015-16 school year.
- The Ministry is confirming today that more than \$180M in funding will be allocated to sustain supports to priority education initiatives in the 2015-16 school year.

# Other Items

## **Collective Bargaining**

- As in 2014–15, GSN funding for compensation and other labour costs in 2015–16 will reflect the current situation under the statutory freeze provisions of the *Labour Relations Act*.
- Beginning in 2015–16, boards will be provided with necessary funding through the School Board Administration and Governance Grant to support the labour relations activities of their respective trustees' associations.

## **School Authorities**

- Funding for school authorities will be adjusted in 2015–16, as appropriate, to reflect changes in funding to district school boards.

## **Due Dates for Submissions**

- Board Estimates for 2015–16 due June 30, 2015.

# 4. Capital

# School Condition Improvement

- In 2015-16, School Condition Improvement (SCI) funding will increase to \$500 million – double the amount allocated to boards in 2014-15.
  - Second year of the \$1.25 billion investment announced with 2014-15 GSN
- Funding will be allocated in proportion to a board's total assessed renewal needs under the Condition Assessment Program.
  - Renewal needs for buildings to be assessed in 2015 have been estimated based on a building's weighted age and size. This estimation is only applicable for 2015–16.
- School boards will be required to direct 80 percent of funding to key building components (for example, foundations, roofs, windows) and systems (for example, HVAC and plumbing).
- School boards will be allowed to use the remaining 20 percent of their new SCI funding to address any locally-identified renewal needs.
- Additional details are being released today in memorandum SB:04



# New Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) Process

- Starting in 2014, the Ministry's Capital Advisory Committee (CAC) of school board representatives undertook a comprehensive review of the PARG.
- In late 2014 and early 2015, the Ministry consulted on the CAC's recommendations with stakeholders from the education and municipal sectors.
- The new PARG is significantly different from the existing (2009) version.
- The PARG continues to represent a framework of **minimum** standards for school boards to consider in their pupil accommodation review policies.
  - School boards are expected to amend their existing policies to reflect the revised PARG before starting any new pupil accommodation reviews.

# New PARG Process (continued)

- The main areas of change in the new PARG include:
  - Requirement for school boards to seek feedback from their local municipal governments and other community partners during the pupil accommodation review process.
    - Linkage to new Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline.
  - Refocused role of the ARC as a conduit for information sharing.
    - No longer a requirement for ARC to vote on an option.
  - ARC membership, at a minimum, to include parent/guardian representatives from the school(s) under review.
  - Addition of an optional modified pupil accommodation review process to address local circumstances and provide school boards with greater flexibility.

# Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline

- The Facility Partnerships Guideline is renamed the ***Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline*** to support a broader function and objective.
- The revised Guideline now encourages a greater exchange of information between school boards and other government and community organizations.
- Annual meeting and information exchange:
  - Information regarding capital planning and projections, facility partnership opportunities, community needs, green space and parkland needs should be exchanged during the annual meeting held by school boards.
- Requirement for boards to seek additional information and input from community partners in specific areas of the board that may be subject to a pupil accommodation review in the near future.
- Linkages:
  - The Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline is now linked to functions in the revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline.

# Capital Programs

## **Capital Priorities**

- This program targets school board identified priority capital projects.
- Since 2010, the Ministry has allocated over \$2.9 billion in capital funding for the construction of new schools, permanent additions, renovations and school purchases.
- The Ministry will be requesting boards to revise/update their Capital Priorities business cases and submit them later this Spring for Ministry consideration.

## **School Consolidation Capital (SCC)**

- As part of the 2014-15 GSN, the Ministry announced a total investment of \$750 million over four years for the new SCC program, intended to help school boards adjust their cost structure in response to reductions in Ministry funding that currently supports empty space.
- The Ministry recently announced \$150M in project approvals for 31 projects supported by SCC and new Full-Day Kindergarten funding.

# 5. Working Together

# Working together

## **School Consolidation Experience Studies**

- The Ministry is conducting pilot studies, working with stakeholders to better understand their experiences with school closures and consolidations.
- There is comparatively little documented information about how individuals and different groups of people are impacted before, during and after the transition process.
- The studies will provide an opportunity for lessons learned to be shared across the province.

## **Community Hubs**

- The government has identified the development of a community hubs policy as a priority and has appointed Karen Pitre to lead a province-wide discussion.

## **Consultation**

- The Ministry will be organizing regional information sessions for school board officials in Spring 2015 to discuss these changes in detail.

# Resources

- The Ministry will be posting the following documents on its website (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html>):
  - *B07 memo – Grants for Student Needs Funding for 2015-16*
  - *B08 memo – 2015-16 School Year Education Programs – Other (EPO) Funding*
  - *B09 memo – Release of the New Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline and Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline*
  - *SB04 memo – Update on the School Condition Improvement Funding Program and the Condition Assessment Program*
  - *School Board Funding Projections for the 2015-16 School year*
  - *Technical Paper 2015-16*
  - *2015-16 Education Funding Consultation Summary*
  - *2015-16 Education Funding: A Guide to the Grants for Student Needs*

Questions

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**THANK YOU**