

2017–18 Grants for Student Needs

TECHNICAL BRIEFING

April 12, 2017

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

Further, some of the proposals set out in this presentation are dependent on the ratification of amendments to various collective agreements; accordingly, the content of this presentation is also subject to ratification of such amendments, if and when they occur.

Purpose

- To provide school boards and other key stakeholders with an overview of updates to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for 2017–18.
- Key changes:
 - Enhancements to Implement the 2017-19 Labour Agreements
 - Capital Investments
 - Indigenous Education Accountability Measures
 - School Foundation Grant Investments
 - Keeping up with Costs
 - Education Program – Other Investments
 - Ongoing Implementation and Other Changes
 - Next Steps in Transformation

Overview of 2017-18 GSN

- Investments in Ontario's publicly funded education system continue to increase, with the 2017-18 GSN projected to be \$23.8 billion, an average of \$12,100 per pupil - an increase of 68 per cent in per pupil funding since 2002-03.

What GSN funding supports

- **Classrooms** (\$13.2 billion)
- **Schools** (\$3.9 billion)
- **Specific priorities** (\$4.4 billion)
- **Local management** (\$2.2 billion)

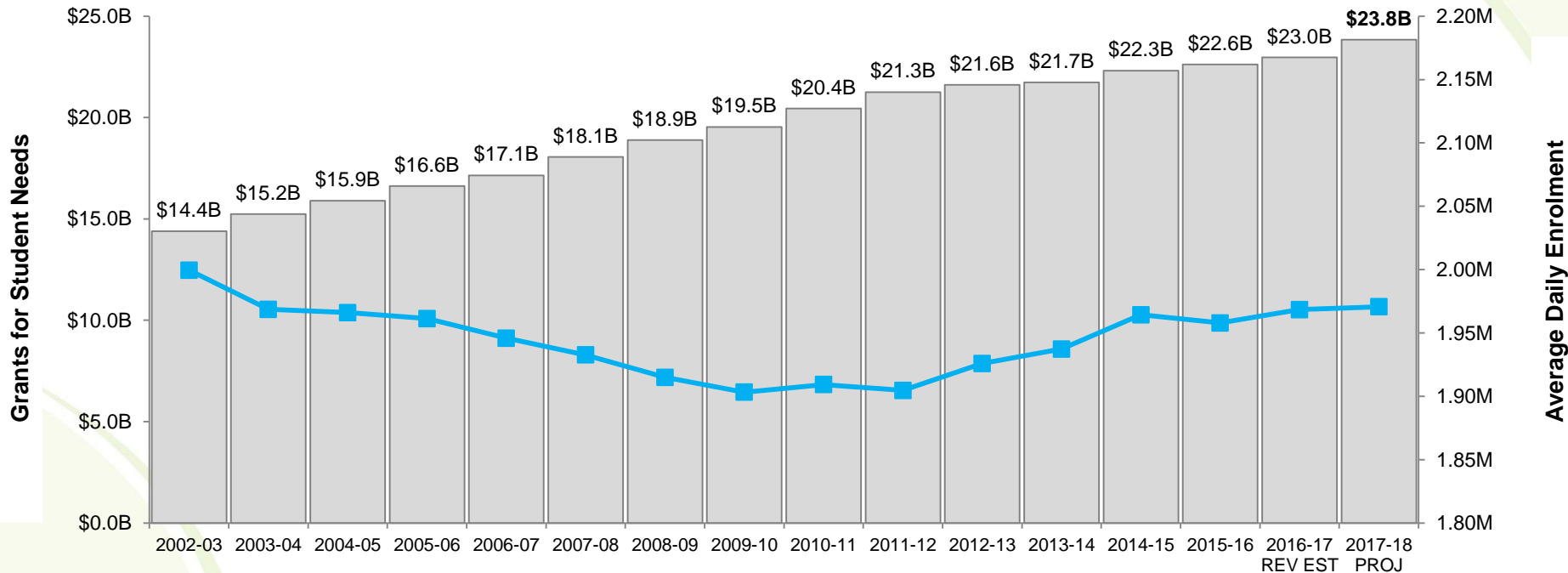
The goals GSN funding helps achieve

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

Overview of 2017-18 GSN

GSN Funding and Enrolment	2016-17 Revised Estimates	2017-18 Projections
Enrolment (average daily enrolment)		
Total Enrolment <i>Year-Over-Year Change (Average Daily Enrolment)</i> <i>Year-Over-Year Change (%)</i>	1,968,380 10,486 0.5%	1,970,661 2,281 0.1%
GSN		
Total Funding (\$) <i>Year-Over-Year Change (\$)</i> <i>Year-Over-Year Change (%)</i>	22.97 billion 345.7 million 1.5%	23.84 billion 878.5 million 3.8%
Per Pupil		
Total Funding Per Pupil (\$) <i>Year-Over-Year Change (\$)</i> <i>Year-Over-Year Change (%)</i>	11,667 114 1.0%	12,100 432 3.7%

Historic Context



Note: To provide clear year-over-year comparisons, FDK funding and enrolment are included, which was outside the GSN, during the implementation period.

2017-18 Funding Discussions

- The 2017-18 GSN reflects extensive discussions with school boards and a broad range of education stakeholders, integrating policy, program and financial expertise.
- As in past years, the engagement sessions (which were held in fall 2016 and early 2017) looked at core areas of funding.
- A summary of these discussions is now available on the ministry website.

1. Enhancements to Implement the 2017-19 Labour Agreements

Funding for Labour Agreements

- Nine agreements will be effective from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2019. The 2017-18 GSN **reflects investments for the first year of the agreements** to support the following:
 - Modest wage increases and investments in benefit transformation;
 - Local priorities funding – including more staffing support for special education students;
 - Class size reduction investments for full-day kindergarten (FDK) and grades 4-8; and,
 - Community use of schools and other priorities.

Modest Wage Increases and Benefits

- The ministry will provide a **1.5 per cent salary benchmark increase** for staff in 2017-18 (projected to be \$257.2 million).
- In addition, the ministry has committed to provide funding to support a one-time payment in 2017-18 **for professional development**, equivalent to the amount that would have been generated if the salary benchmarks for these staff had been increased by 0.5% (projected to be \$85.7 million).
- Any inflation protection increases, increases to base funding and/or Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) **changes for provincial benefits trusts** will also be reflected in the GSN, in updated table amounts for 2017-18.

Community, Local and Other Priorities

- The ministry has agreed to establish a **Local Priorities Fund of \$218.9 million in 2017-18** to address a range of local education issues.
- These funds could support about **875 FTE** teachers and about **1,600 to 1,850 FTE** education workers. Actual staffing depends on specific agreements and local discussions and staffing decisions.
- The ministry is also providing:
 - A **3% increase to Community Use of Schools** funding (about \$0.8 million).
 - New funding through the School Boards Administration and Governance Grant to help boards manage the impact of the extensions through the **Human Resource Transition Supplement** (\$10.0 million).

Class Size Investments

- The government has made a commitment to **invest in reducing funded class sizes** for FDK and Grades 4 to 8.
 - Additional investments in FDK will lower the funded average class size to 25.75 in 2017-18 (projected to be \$16.7 million).
 - The ministry will also lower the funded class size average for grades 4-8 to 22.85 over five years for all school boards. In 2017-18, the funded average class size will be reduced to 24.17 (projected to be \$39.6 million).
- The ministry will also engage the sector to assess the ongoing space requirements in schools and whether additional capital investments are required.

2. School Renewal Investments

School Condition Improvement (SCI) / School Renewal (SR)

- The ministry will invest **\$1 billion in School Condition Improvement** funding in 2017.18. There will also be an additional \$40 million for the School Renewal Allocation in 2017-18. This maintains the government's commitment to invest **\$1.4 billion** in 2017-18.
- These new investments support the ministry's vision to provide safe and healthy learning environments to support student achievement and well-being by keeping schools in a state of good repair.
- These investments recognize the importance of undertaking major building and site renewal work, as well as repairs and maintenance issues that improve the more visible elements of schools.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Funding

- The Government of Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan outlines specific commitments for meeting the Government's GHG emissions reduction target by 2020.
- As part of our \$1.0 billion investment in SCI funding for the 2017-18 school year, the ministry is **introducing a \$200.0 million initiative** that will support the reduction of GHG emissions from facilities in the education sector.
- Eligible expenditures under this program will support the replacement, renewal and installation of new energy efficient building components in older elementary schools, secondary schools and administrative buildings.
- This initiative **will run from April 2017 to March 2018.**

3. Indigenous Education Accountability Measures

Accountability Changes to the Indigenous Education Grant

- Starting in 2017-18, the Per-Pupil Amount of the Indigenous Education Grant **will be fully enveloped**. This amount is projected to be **\$25.3 million**.
- Additionally, all boards must allocate at least **1.0 FTE for the Indigenous Education Lead** position.
- Each school board will also be required to **identify a Supervisory Officer who is accountable** for the implementation of the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Framework and has oversight over the work of the Lead(s), if the Lead is not a Supervisory Officer.

4. School Foundation Grant (SFG) Investments

SFG Investments

- Starting in 2017-18, the government is making additional investments in supports for school administration through the SFG (**projected to be \$4.6 million**).
- These investments were guided by recommendations of experts in the sector and includes the following changes:
 - **Multi-building Adjustment** - Funding for an additional principal for elementary or secondary schools (excludes combined schools) that consist of multiple buildings on the same campus with large enrolment. This investment recognizes differentiated enrolment thresholds for English-language boards and French-language boards.

SFG Investments

- **French-language Board Adjustment** - French-language boards' 'regular' schools will generate funding as if they were 'distant' schools. This investment recognizes that boards operating in a minority language context may face greater difficulty in meeting school size thresholds.
- **Funding based on a campus definition of a school** - for the purposes of funding school administration. The impacts on funding will be phased-in over four years to give time for school boards to adjust.
- Additional details can be found in the technical guide, available on the ministry's website.

5. Keeping Up With Costs

Keeping Up With Costs

- The province continues to assist school boards with student transportation and utilities costs. In 2017-18, the government will continue this investment with a projected \$31.4 million in additional funding.

Student Transportation:

- Funding for student transportation will increase by 2 per cent to help boards manage increased costs. As in previous years, this cost update will be netted against a school board's transportation surplus.

Utilities (including electricity):

- The non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark will again be increased by 2 per cent to help boards manage increases in commodity prices.

6. Education Programs – Other (EPO) Investments

EPO Investments

- The ministry 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 memo to provide boards with funding allocations for their 2017–18 school year.
 - The memo will also contain continued support for the Renewed Math Strategy.

7. Ongoing Implementation and Other Changes

Ongoing Implementation and Other Changes

- Changes stemming from past labour agreements
- Benefits Investments
- School Board Administration and Governance Grant (SBAGG)
- School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM)
- Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) Allocation
- Continued phase in of 2011 Census and National Household Survey (NHS) Updates

For more information on any of these changes please refer to the technical guide, available on the ministry's website.

8. Next Steps in Transformation

Rural Education

- Starting this spring, the government will launch an engagement on education in rural and remote communities.
- Discussion topics will balance programming considerations, the need to leverage assets for the benefit of the community where possible, and feedback on funding approaches.

Transportation

- The ministry will launch a multi-stakeholder consultation to solicit input and feedback to renew the vision of student transportation in Ontario.
- The consultation will focus on transportation funding principles, the roles of government and school boards, and interactions with other services outside of education.
- Feedback gathered from the engagement will be used to inform the delivery of student transportation funding to school boards and future policy development.

Resources

- The ministry will be posting the following documents on its website (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html>):
 - *School Board Funding Projections for the 2017-18 School Year*
 - *2017 -18 Technical Paper*
 - *2017-18 Education Funding Discussions: Summary Report*
 - *2017–18 Education Funding: A Guide to the Grants for Student Needs*

Questions

fpbd-dpfo@ontario.ca

THANK YOU