As a follow up to the recent announcement by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health Promotion, I am writing to provide you with information about funding for secondary student engagement initiatives related to healthy schools. To better engage the creativity of secondary students, the ministry is allocating $1000 per secondary school to be used to support student-led activity focused on creating healthier schools.

Students, teachers and the broader community all benefit when children and youth learn in a healthy environment. As you know, we have introduced a number of initiatives aimed at elementary schools, including mandatory daily physical activity and nutrition guidelines for vending machines.

With the funding we are providing for secondary student engagement, boards, schools and students will be able to develop healthy schools activities to suit local secondary school needs. We want secondary students across the province to get involved, share their ideas and commit their energy making their schools healthier.

Boards are asked to facilitate the distribution of this funding to student councils and to make the funds easily accessible. The funds should be directed towards activities that:
- are led by secondary student councils; and,
- focus on one of the health-related topic areas identified in the 
  Foundations for a Healthy School framework, first released to school boards and schools on December 4, 2006 and attached for your information (a copy is also available for download on the ministry’s web site www.edu.gov.on.ca).
Please encourage your student councils to contact their student association leaders for activity ideas.

Funds can be used for such costs as:

- **meeting expenses** (e.g. materials, facilities);
- **communication materials** (e.g. posters, signs, audio-video material, web design);
- **student training** (e.g. attending or hosting a conference); and
- **human resources** (e.g. services of experts/speakers).

Funds cannot be used for staff salaries or to purchase goods for which the ministry currently provides funding (e.g. textbooks).

School boards and principals should encourage students to consider using the funds within the context of the recently announced Healthy Schools Recognition Program. Information on the program was sent to all boards and schools in the province on December 11, 2006. Additional information is also available on the Ministry of Education’s web site, [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/healthyschools.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/healthyschools.html).

**Timelines and Reporting Requirements**
School boards must ensure that student engagement funding is spent by June 30, 2007. School boards will also need to report on the spending by September 28, 2007.

Reporting templates will be made available as part of the reporting calendar for school boards at [http://calendar.edu.gov.on.ca/](http://calendar.edu.gov.on.ca/). More information on the reporting process will become available soon.

Your allocation of the secondary student engagement funding for healthy schools will be sent along with the next regular instalment of your transfer payment.

Should you have any questions regarding this investment in student engagement, please contact Chris Kotz, at (416) 325-7151 or christopher.kotz@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help students lead healthy, active lives.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Harding

c. Regional Managers, Ministry of Education
Président, Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne
President, Ontario Student Trustees Association
Premier, Ontario Secondary School Students Association