August 27, 2014

Dear chair,

I am writing to inform you about additional steps my ministry is taking to ensure our investments are focused on continued improvement in student achievement.

In the 2014-15 Grants for Student Needs funding, the ministry announced a new $750 million School Consolidation Capital program. This program will be rolled out over four years, and is part of our School Board Efficiency and Modernization initiative that is focused on finding the most efficient and effective use of investments in the public education system.

One thing that is absolutely clear is that enrolment is in decline in some areas of the province and there are too many resources being used to support seats in classrooms where there are no students.

That is why we are providing this funding that will help school boards manage their school space more efficiently. In particular, it will support consolidation projects such as new schools, additions, and retrofits that would help address excess capacity.

You can find more details about the funding in the attached Memorandum 2014:B 08.

I appreciate the support of your board and your colleagues across Ontario to help modernize our education system and ensure that our investments continue to be focused on improving student achievement and well-being.

I look forward to continuing to work together.

Sincerely,

Liz Sandals
Minister