This memo provides an update on an opportunity for funding to develop and implement innovative experiential learning projects for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and supports for the implementation of a comprehensive Kindergarten to Grade 12 education and career/life planning program as outlined in *Creating Pathways to Success* (CPS).

1. **Call for Proposals for Community-Connected Experiential Learning Projects**

Community-connected experiential learning is an approach to student learning where students actively participate in an experience which they may create or initiate, reflect on the experience to derive meaning from it, and then apply their learning to their decisions and actions in various aspects of their lives. The community may be local, national or global and the connection can be by being physically present (on-site experience), being present through the use of various communication technologies (virtual experience) or a combination (blended experience).

Experiential learning supports students in their education and career/life planning program. Through these types of opportunities students learn more about themselves, their interests and strengths, and are able to explore a variety of communities, organizations and workplaces, and make plans for their education, career and life outside of school.

In February 2015, boards were invited to submit proposals for innovative experiential learning pilot projects. The ministry received over 165 proposals and provided $418,570 in funding for 45 elementary, cross-panel and secondary projects. The approved projects involved a variety of subject areas and approaches to experiential learning such as inquiry-, project- and problem-based learning, service learning, and simulations.
To support the ministry’s renewed goals and commitments, the ministry has allocated $500,000 in funding to support further projects. We are inviting boards to submit proposals for innovative community-connected experiential learning projects for elementary and secondary students focussed on improving student achievement, student engagement and well-being. These projects will further inform policy development. See Appendix B: Call for Proposals for Community-Connected Experiential Learning Projects for more details.

The specific funding for each project will vary depending on project needs, proposals received and proposed budgets. Funding must be spent by August 31, 2016.

Two teleconferences are scheduled for February 24 from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. and February 25 from 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. for board staff, Student Success Leaders and regional office staff to receive further information and evaluation criteria for the proposals. Interested board staff are invited to attend one of these teleconferences.

Boards whose project proposals are approved will be required to submit a report. A reporting template will be provided upon approval.

2. K-12 Education and Career/Life Planning Program Implementation Support

Last year, boards received funding to develop and support implementation of the Kindergarten to Grade 6 “All About Me” Portfolio.

For the 2015-16 school year, funding is available to continue the development and implementation of the K-12 Education and Career/Life Planning Program with each interested board receiving $2,000 base amount plus an additional allocation determined by enrolment. Boards will have flexibility to utilize funds towards CPS implementation in accordance with their priorities. See Appendix A for details regarding funding parameters and proposed board allocations.

This funding is to:
- facilitate teacher training related to the comprehensive, whole-school education and career/life planning program;
- establish processes for students to share evidence of their learning with their teacher(s) and/or guidance counsellor, and, where possible their parents at least twice a year; and
- support the further development and implementation of Education and Career/Life Planning Program, “All About Me” portfolios, Kindergarten to Grade 6 and Individual Pathways Plans (IPP), Grades 7-12.

Boards are only asked to respond by email to the StudentSuccessPolicyBranch@ontario.ca by February 26, 2016 to indicate if they are not in a position to utilize this funding support by the end of August 2016. These boards will not receive funding.

Boards receiving the funding will be required to submit a brief report by September 16, 2016 to describe expenditures and how the funding was used to support the implementation of a comprehensive Kindergarten to Grade 12 education and career/life planning program.
If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Nantais, Education Officer, Student Success Policy Branch at melissa.nantais@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting student success initiatives.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bickford
Director
Student Success Policy Branch

Denys Giguère
Director
French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

c: EDU Regional Offices

Attachments:
- Appendix A: 2015-16 Funding to Support Implementation of K-12 Education and Career/Life Planning Programs
- Appendix B: Call for Proposals for Community-Connected Experiential Learning Projects - English