We are pleased to announce that applications for the 2016-17 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants program are now being accepted. We greatly appreciate your leadership and continued support for PRO Grants and for encouraging more parents to be involved in their children’s learning.

*Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario (2014)* recognizes that parents are a key part of Ontario’s success in education. Ontario’s PRO Grants support parents in identifying barriers to engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to engage more parents in support of student achievement and well-being.

There are two components to the PRO Grants program:

**PRO Grants for School Councils** support projects that help identify and remove barriers to parent engagement that may prevent some parents from fully participating in their children’s learning. School councils may develop proposals individually, with other school councils or with other groups in their school or community. Each school council may apply for a maximum of $1,000. To learn more about PRO Grants for school councils, please visit the ministry website at: [https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html](https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html).

With your support, we can deepen outreach to schools that have not participated in the PRO Grants program in the past and priority schools in high-needs areas. We appreciate your efforts in communicating the availability and benefits of PRO Grants and encouraging school council participation.
**PRO Grants for Regional/Provincial Projects** are available to Parent Involvement Committees, district school boards, parent organizations, non-profit organizations and post-secondary institutions working in partnership with parents to support student achievement and well-being. As in previous years, priority will be given to parent-led projects that have been developed in partnership with district school boards. The maximum grant available for regional/provincial projects is $30,000. For more information about PRO Grants for regional/provincial projects, please visit: [https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/regional.html](https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/regional.html).

This year, special consideration will be given to eligible school council and regional/provincial projects that promote parent support for their children’s math learning at home and at school, as well as projects that support engagement of parents in fostering safe, inclusive and accepting schools.

Attached we have provided presentation decks that outline the purpose and application process for PRO Grants for school councils and regional/provincial projects. In the past, PIC Chairs/Co-Chairs have found these presentation decks useful to share with parent groups through workshops, information meetings/sessions, or via email, for example. For more information, please visit the ministry website. If you have questions, please contact Ayn Posada, Senior Policy Advisor at 416-325-7774 | Ayn.Posada@ontario.ca.

Please note that the deadline for submitting a 2016-17 PRO Grant application is **Sunday, May 29, 2016 at 11:59 P.M. EST**. Applications must be completed and submitted online.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the PRO Grants program and for encouraging parent engagement in student learning and well-being.

Sincerely,

Ruth Flynn  
Director  
Inclusive Education Branch

cc. Regional Office Managers  
Regional Education Officers – Parent Engagement Leads  
Executive Assistants to Directors of Education