MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education  
English-Language District School Boards  

FROM: Raymond Théberge  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division  

DATE: May 19, 2011  

SUBJECT: Official Languages in Education (OLE) Program: French as a Second Language (FSL) Allocations to School Boards  

Further to the Ministry of Education’s B Memorandum 2011:4 dated March 31, 2011, I am pleased to provide you with information about 2011-12 school year funding for initiatives under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction.

As you may recall, under the agreement approximately $27 million over a period of four years (2009-10 to 2012-13) was allocated to meet Ontario’s FSL action plan commitments of improving student retention in, and access to, FSL programs, and enhancing student performance in French. Total funding for the 2011-12 school year will be $7.6 million, allocated in the following three key priority areas: FSL professional learning opportunities for teachers, French learning opportunities for students, and professional learning opportunities for teachers related to the use of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) as a resource for FSL learning.

The FSL investment for these three priorities is in addition to the FSL allocation for the Language Grant portion of the Grant for Student’s Needs (GSN) and is not intended to replace any existing ministry initiatives. Funds are to be spent during the 2011-2012 school year, that is from September 2011 to August 2012.

Please note that funding may not be transferred from one priority area to another, and that school boards’ funding allocations for each priority area may only be used for eligible activities / expenditures as outlined on pages 2 and 3 of this memorandum.

Priority Areas for 2011-12  

1. **Priority Area #1: FSL Professional Learning Opportunities and Professional Learning Resources for Teacher Support ($4.4 million in the 2011-12 school year)**  

This funding will support enhanced access to professional learning opportunities specifically for FSL teachers.
Eligible Activities/Expenditures:
- support for school board staffing in roles such as program consultants, coordinators, coaches and special assignment teachers, provided that there are professional learning activities dedicated to FSL (beyond those already provided for by GSN and/or other ministry funding)
- establishment of FSL professional learning communities and teaching-learning networks
- job-embedded professional learning opportunities at the school, family of schools, board or regional level, including release time for teachers, such as:
  - co-planning or co-teaching FSL lessons
  - coaching
  - classroom visits
- acquisition, development and sharing of professional learning resources for FSL teachers
- workshops for FSL teachers, including the hiring of professional services (e.g. speakers)
- conferences within Canada (includes only conference registration and teacher release time)
- subscriptions to professional journals
- language learning software and hardware specifically targeted to FSL programs and that are part of a FSL implementation plan, such as audio or video recorders (up to a maximum of 20% of priority #1 funding)

Please note that student resources (e.g. textbooks, levelled reading books) are not eligible under this priority.

Each of the 60 English-language school boards will be allocated $25,000 as a base, as well as a per-pupil amount based on the board’s 2008-2009 FSL enrolment.

2. **Priority Area #2: French Learning Opportunities for Students ($1.4 million in the 2011-12 school year)**

This funding will support increased opportunities for students in all FSL programs to improve and apply, through clear educational objectives, their oral communication skills. The aim is to encourage students to pursue the study of French beyond the minimal compulsory requirements.

Eligible Activities/Expenditures:
- Student exchanges in Canada to support French-language learning
- Student participation in educational visits in Canada that are not exchanges and where students would be required to use French in order to communicate
- Student attendance at cultural activities during the school day, such as concerts and plays, that are performed in French (including pre- and post-event classroom activities)
- School board summer French camps for FSL students
- Planning, coordination and delivery of FSL cultural activities
- Student participation in French public-speaking opportunities (e.g. Concours d’art oratoire) at board and provincial levels

Each of the 60 English-language school boards will be allocated $5,000 as a base, as well as a per-pupil amount based on the board’s 2008-2009 FSL enrolment.
3. **Priority Area #3: Professional Learning Opportunities for Teachers Related to Using the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) as a Resource for FSL learning ($1.8 million in the 2011-2 school year)**

This funding will further enhance school boards’ capacity building in developing a deeper understanding of the CEFR as a tool to inform practice. The CEFR provides a framework to inform practices for instruction and assessment in the acquisition of French as a second language. Similar to differentiated instruction, the framework embodies the principles of effective teaching.

**Eligible Activities/Expenditures:**
- awareness sessions for superintendents
- information sessions for principals
- training sessions for FSL teachers, including those that are job-embedded
- establishment of a lead team to assist FSL teachers in planning within the lens of the CEFR
- conferences within Canada (includes only conference registration and teacher release time)
- development and sharing of student resources related to CEFR
- acquisition of professional learning resources for FSL educators related to the CEFR (e.g. professional journals)
- Action research and/or study of student performance

Each of the 60 English-language school boards will be allocated $25,000 in base funding as well as a per-pupil amount based on the board’s 2008-2009 FSL enrolment.

In the attached *Appendix 1* you will find details of each school board’s 2011-12 funding allocations for the three priority areas. Information about this year’s Project Agreement process will be provided in September 2011.

Please note that funding will be flowed upon receipt of 2010-11 OLE FSL funding final reports from all school boards (due September 12, 2011), and the signing of 2011-12 OLE Transfer Payment agreements between school boards and the ministry.

Thank you for your ongoing support of FSL teaching and learning in Ontario.

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Raymond Théberge

Attachment

c: Regional Managers