I am writing to you with an update to Memorandum B8 (released on March 26, 2015). This memo provides further allocation details for the 2015-16 school year EPO transfer payment funding.

Context

The core of Ontario’s education success is its focus on a consistent vision for the system, with the goals of that vision being widely known and embraced by all partners. Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario outlines four key goals for our education system: achieving excellence in teaching and learning, ensuring equity, promoting well-being, and enhancing confidence in a publicly funded education system.

Our renewed vision challenges us all to transform to meet the expectations of today and build the vibrant, prosperous province of tomorrow. At the same time, making the most efficient use of resources will ensure our system is sustainable and responsible.

Education Program – Other (EPO) funding is allocated to support our core goals and priorities identified in the renewed vision. Transforming the education system and realizing our shared goals for Achieving Excellence while living within our means requires commitment and determination, as well as finding creative ways to implement effectively and for the maximum benefit of our learners.
**Funding Allocation Summary**

To facilitate school boards’ budget planning for the 2015-16 school year, Memorandum B8 announced $214.1 million of EPO funding to be allocated to school boards and school authorities to support ministry priorities. Within this amount:

- $153.4 million was announced and allocated to school boards to support specified programs in March 2015.
- $60.7 million in program funding was announced but not allocated to school boards in March 2015.

Memorandum B15 allocates $44.33 million of the $60.7 million announced in Memorandum B8 to school boards (see Appendix A for details).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Total September Bmemo ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolment Reporting Initiative</td>
<td>1,999,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Nations, Métis and Inuit Implementation - Board Initiatives</td>
<td>5,608,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on Youth</td>
<td>750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Language Literacy Strategy</td>
<td>780,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Language Student and School Support</td>
<td>580,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint School Support and Re-Engagement Initiative for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students</td>
<td>1,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Leadership Strategy</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Education and Engagement</td>
<td>19,995,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-engagement (12 &amp; 12+)</td>
<td>1,200,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Success School Support Initiative</td>
<td>4,672,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Announced Outside the Bmemo</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Reaching Out Grants - Provincial/Regional</td>
<td>784,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Reaching Out Grants - School Councils</td>
<td>2,060,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>44,330,956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Description and Allocation

Enrolment Reporting Initiative ($2.0M)

This funding of $2.0 million in 2015-16 is to support school board implementation of phase 2 of the Enrolment Reporting Initiative. This initiative was announced on November 1, 2013 to replace paper-based enrolment registers for Continuing Education and other programs with other electronic student management systems and Ontario School Information System (OnSIS) data collection.

Aboriginal Education – Ontario’s First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework Implementation ($5.6M)

The ministry’s investment in Aboriginal Education outside of the GSN will provide continued support for the implementation of the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework (2007).

Specifically, this investment will support school boards’ ongoing Framework implementation activities, including:

- Developing a Board Action Plan on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education that will include programs and initiatives aligned with the strategies and actions identified for school boards in the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework Implementation Plan (2014). School boards are encouraged to use the Board Assessment Tool and their board-specific Aboriginal Education Analytical Profile to build on progress achieved to date through the implementation of their 2014-15 Board Action Plan on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education, and to identify priority initiatives for the 2015-16 year;
- Increasing the focus in school board strategic planning to promote the voluntary, confidential self-identification of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students and target resources to improve Aboriginal student achievement and well-being;
- Analyzing school board and school data to assess progress in reducing the gap in student achievement;
- Continuing to identify and share promising practices to target and refine strategies and resources to improve First Nation, Métis and Inuit student achievement and well-being; and
- Continuing to support increased knowledge and awareness of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultures, histories, traditions, and perspectives among all students and staff.

Further information concerning school board funding opportunities for Aboriginal education for the 2015-16 school year was communicated to school boards on August 19, 2015, by the Aboriginal Education Office.
Focus on Youth ($0.75M)

Memorandum B8 announced continued funding of $7 million for this program to support the partnership between select school boards and local community agencies to provide summer programming and employment opportunities for students in urban, high-needs neighbourhoods. As of June 2015, an additional $1 million was announced to fund both in-year afterschool programs in existing boards in the Greater Toronto Area and to expand the FOY summer program to five new communities of Brantford, Kingston, Peterborough, Sudbury and Thunder Bay. Allocations for the school boards in these five new communities are included in this memorandum.

French Language Literacy ($0.78M)

This funding will support opportunities for school leaders and teaching staff to improve achievement and well-being of French-language learners and newcomer students in French-language schools. It will also identify and fund targeted initiatives based on evidence gathered throughout the implementation of the plan and the assessment of practices as per Ontario’s First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework.

French-language Student and School Support ($0.58M)

Targeted French-language school boards will receive funding to support the capacities of leaders and teaching staff in Grade 7-12 schools. The funding will be used to plan evidence-based projects that are intended to ensure the long-term success and well-being of students. Initiatives such as Differentiated Instruction that build capacity through professional learning projects or the Re-engagement Initiative (12&12+) are some examples of projects that will continue to be funded.

Joint School Support and Re-engagement Initiative for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students ($1.9M)

In the 2015-16 school year, First Nations, Métis and Inuit SSI and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Re-engagement are being combined in applicable school boards. This will allow school boards to hire one full time educator (or equivalent) to build the capacity of teachers working with self-identified FNMI students in Grades 9 and 10 applied courses who are not yet achieving success and to support self-identified FNMI students who have disengaged from school.

Ontario Leadership Strategy and Professional Learning Enhancements: Mentoring for All ($4.0M) [Theme Bundle #3]

Memorandum B8 announced $4.8 million for theme bundle 3 of the EPO streamlining project - the Ontario Leadership Strategy and Professional Learning Enhancements: Mentoring for All. Allocations for the Ontario Leadership Strategy (Board Leadership Development Strategy) totalling $4 million are included in this memorandum.
Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario reconfirmed that leadership is a critical lever to ensure attainment of the renewed goals. In support of Achieving Excellence and in consultation with school districts, the ministry is developing a renewed vision for leadership: Leadership for Learning.

The renewed vision of Leadership for Learning will be reflected in the Board Leadership Development Strategy (BLDS) for 2015-16. All school boards will continue to be provided with funding to support succession planning and capacity building for professional capital and culture, evidence and research, the continued development of effective leadership practices and personal leadership resources through mentoring and coaching and a growth-oriented culture of continuous improvement. The BLDS continues to support the goals of school and board improvement plans for student achievement and well-being and the board multi-year plan.

School boards will have the opportunity to combine funding from the BLDS with the Professional Learning Enhancements: Mentoring for All fund to provide support for an expanded continuum of mentorship roles, including but not limited to:

- Associate Teachers
- New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) mentors
- Early Childhood Educator (ECE) mentors
- Business, Facilities and Support Staff mentors
- Board Consultants and Coordinators
- Other mentors as specified by the school board

Outdoor Education and Engagement ($20M)

This funding will be used to support outdoor learning activities for elementary and secondary students. These activities may be provided by school boards or by third party organizations, such as not-for-profit or community groups.

In 2015-16, this funding is for expenses associated with student learning activities in the outdoors. For example:

- fees related to participation in outdoor learning activities provided by school boards or by third party organizations, such as not-for-profit or community groups
- to enlist the expertise and/or facilities/resources of community agencies in outdoor learning activities
- transportation costs
- teacher release time
In 2015-16, this allocated funding may not be used for:

- staffing
- costs associated with board outdoor education facilities (e.g., repairs, equipment)
- the purchase or development of learning resources

**Re-engagement (12&12+) ($1.2M)**

The Re-engagement Initiative (12&12+) provides funding for boards to hire an individual(s) to identify, contact and mentor students that have withdrawn from school. The focus of the initiative is students who can complete all graduation requirements before September 1st of the following school year and are no longer enrolled in school or are no longer attending.

**Student Success School Support Initiative ($4.67M)**

The School Support Initiative (SSI) is a partnership between the Ontario Ministry of Education, the Ontario Principals’ Council, the Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario, and selected school boards with schools where pass rates in Grades 9 and 10 applied compulsory courses are below the provincial rate and where, therefore, students may not be on track to graduate within 4-5 years. The initiative offers intense differentiated support to the selected schools to:

- build the capacity of the principal as the instructional leader
- enhance instructional practices in the classroom
- improve student achievement

**Programs Announced Outside of Memorandum B15**

**Parents Reaching Out Grants – Regional/Provincial & School Councils ($2.84M)**

Parents Reaching Out grants encourage parent engagement at the local, regional and provincial levels. The grant program is designed to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being. There are two types of grants: School Council grants are available to support school-based initiatives focused on engaging parents who may experience challenges in becoming involved in the school due to barriers such as language, recent immigration, poverty, newness to the Ontario's school system, or other factors; Regional/Provincial grants are available to parent organizations, school boards, non-profit organizations and post-secondary institutions working in partnership with parents. This year, the application period ran from March 3 to May 19, 2015. The announcement of successful applications is being made in September, 2015.
Continued Support

If you require further information about these initiatives, please contact your regular ministry program contacts or the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the program.

We will continue to build and develop strong partnerships to realize our shared goals for all learners. Collectively, we need to lead responsibly, manage spending wisely and remain accountable to realize the goal of a system that is responsive, high quality, accessible, and integrated from early learning and childcare to adult education.

George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Enclosure
c: Superintendents of Business and Finance
   Frank Kelly, Executive Director,
   Council of Ontario Directors of Education
   Julian Hanlon, Chair,
   Council of Ontario Directors of Education
   Marg Connor, Assistant Deputy Minister,
   Early Years Division
   Tim Hadwen, Assistant Deputy Minister,
   Education Labour Relations Division
   Mary Jean Gallagher, Assistant Deputy Minister,
   Student Achievement Division
   Janine Griffore, Assistant Deputy Minister,
   French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research
   John Malloy, Assistant Deputy Minister,
   Leadership and Learning Environment Division
   Cathy Montreuil, Assistant Deputy Minister,
   Learning and Curriculum Division
   Bohodar Rubashewsky, Assistant Deputy Minister,
   Chief Administrative Officer
   Gabriel F. Sékaly, Assistant Deputy Minister,
   Financial Policy and Business Division