MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education  
FROM: Rob Andrews  
Director  
Student Success Implementation Branch (SSIB)  
DATE: December 14, 2015  
SUBJECT: 2015/16 SpeakUp Projects: Proposals will launch December 14, 2015  

We are pleased to announce that we will begin accepting proposals for 2015/16 SpeakUp Projects on December 14, 2015.

Please find attached the 2015/16 SpeakUp Projects: Launch and Information Package consisting of:

- the 2015/16 SpeakUp Projects Guide (overview);
- the 2015/16 SpeakUp Projects Toolkit (student resource); and,
- the 2015/16 SpeakUp Projects Project Planner Template (student resource).


CONTEXT

An application process is used to award SpeakUp Project grants to student-led teams in grades 7-12. These grants are designed to support student-led projects that will strengthen student engagement (academically, socially and intellectually).

We invite boards to send completed 2014/15 SpeakUp Project reports that have not been previously submitted to the ministry. These reports can be sent to speakupprojects@ontario.ca.

UPDATES FOR 2015/16

For 2015/16, your SpeakUp Project Package reflects the following changes:

- Grant funding of up to $1,000 (awarded to about 1,200 projects) and $2,500 (awarded to about 140 projects).
SpeakUp Project Proposals seeking grant funding of up to $1,000 will be considered based on the following proposal characteristics:
- Empowering students to take action and support student engagement, equity, achievement, and well-being through an experience within the school community;
- Focusing on the current school year; or
- Making connections/partnerships within the school community and classrooms.

The ministry is piloting grants of up to $2,500 based on the following characteristics:
- Empowering students to take action and support student engagement, equity, achievement, and well-being (i.e., through a wider project depth or breadth for an enriched experience such as a special guest speaker, unique location or event, etc.);
- Lasting beyond the current school year (i.e., the project is sustainable for more than one year); or,
- Making connections/partnerships with schools and/or other community organizations across your school board, region or province.

- An upgraded application and review process platform to an online software system (FluidReview) from a manual submission process. This will allow for greater consistency and quality of applications/reports; decreased input time for students and scoring of applications by reviewers; increased ability to analyze submissions; and, provision of links to the www.Ontario.ca website for other online Student Voice programs/information.

- A more efficient application, review and report back process to provide greater clarity regarding student-teacher roles, responsibilities and expectations. A Toolkit and Planning Template have been developed to support students and teachers in creating high quality applications.

- Linked project foci that reflect the partnerships with branches throughout the Ministry of Education for greater connections between work and ministry/government initiatives (e.g., promote safe and healthy schools, development of 21st century skills and/or technology-enabled learning, etc.).

KEY DATES

Please see the following key dates below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Dates</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 14, 2015</td>
<td>Applications open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22, 2016</td>
<td>Student Submission Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5, 2016</td>
<td>Principal Recommendation Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5, 2016</td>
<td>Applications close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of February 29, 2016</td>
<td>Send Approval / Not Approved Notice</td>
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<td>Key Dates</td>
<td>Item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note: Students could begin their project once they receive funding approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of March 21, 2016</td>
<td>Funding send to Boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8, 2016</td>
<td>Pre-Project Plan Due (Opens Feb 19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>Post Project Reflection Due (Opens Feb 19)</td>
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FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

As part of the 2015/16 SpeakUp Projects reporting for approved applications, the Pre-Project Plan Report and the Post-Project Reflection Report are built directly into the online FluidReview system and are mandatory. If reports are not submitted by the due date, the school will not be eligible for future SpeakUp Project grants.

For 2015/16 and beyond, the following funding calculations will apply:
- Underspent project funds will be kept at the board and included in the total allocated funds for the following year’s transfer payment agreement.
- Unreported project funds will be included in the total allocated funds for the following year’s transfer payment agreement.

Note 1: Board payments will be calculated in accordance with Ministry of Education best practices and accountability standards.

Note 2: It remains the board’s responsibility to ensure that schools that have been awarded a SpeakUp grant have submitted reports by ministry deadlines and that the board is aware of project spending.

CONTACT

Thank you in advance for your support and involvement in preparing, accompanying and supporting your students through this exciting endeavour.

Should you have any questions, please contact either Ruth Bennett, Education Officer, SSIB at Ruth.Bennett@ontario.ca or 416-325-5788 or Samantha Hamilton, Senior Policy Advisor, SSIB at Samantha.Hamilton@ontario.ca or 416-314-3862.

Sincerely,

Rob Andrews
Director, Student Success Implementation Branch
C: John Malloy, ADM, Student Achievement Division
    Steven Reid, Director, Field Services Branch
    Sandra Bickford, Director, Student Success Policy Branch
    Regional Managers, Field Services Branch
    Kate Cowan, Manager, SSIB
    Patrick Keyes, Manager, SSIB
    Lilian Patry, Manager, FLEPPB
    Samantha Hamilton, Senior Policy Advisor, SSIB
    Regional Student Success Leads
    Student Success Leads

Attachments