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2008-09 Grants for Student Needs

OVERVIEW

March 26, 2008

Purpose

- To provide school boards and other key stakeholders with an overview of the major elements proposed for the Grants for Students Needs (GSN) in 2008-09.

It should be noted that a regulation to govern grants to school boards in their 2008-09 fiscal year has not yet been made. The information in this presentation is provided in the absence of such a regulation.

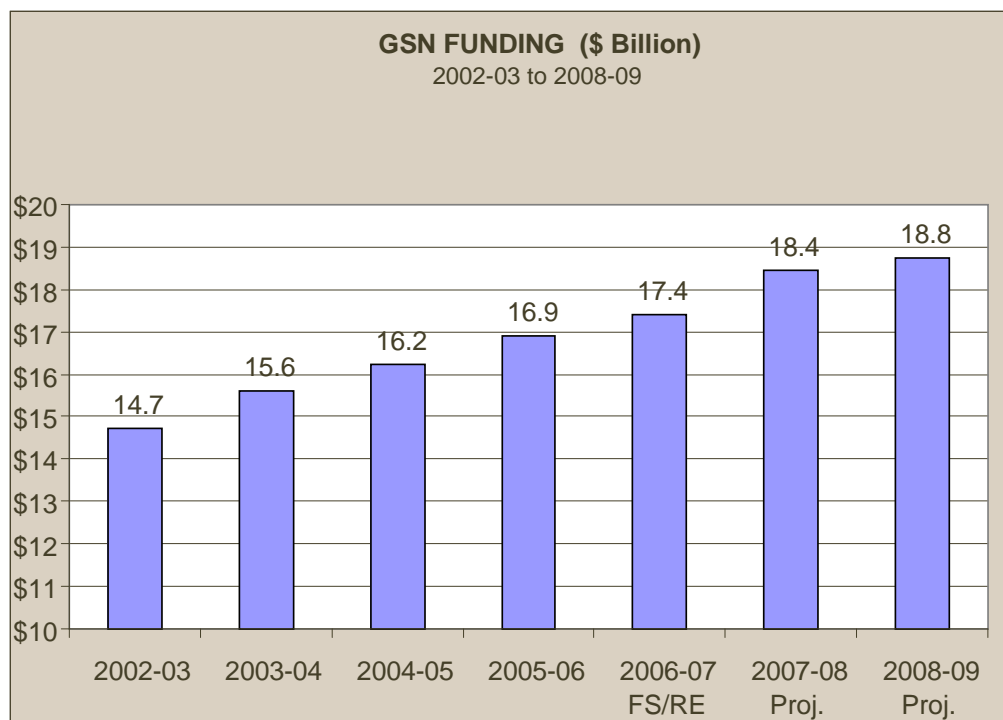
The initiatives and investments described herein must be implemented by, and are conditional upon, the approval of such a regulation by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The Ministry intends to seek approval for such a regulation in March/April 2008 and will advise you if such a regulation is approved.



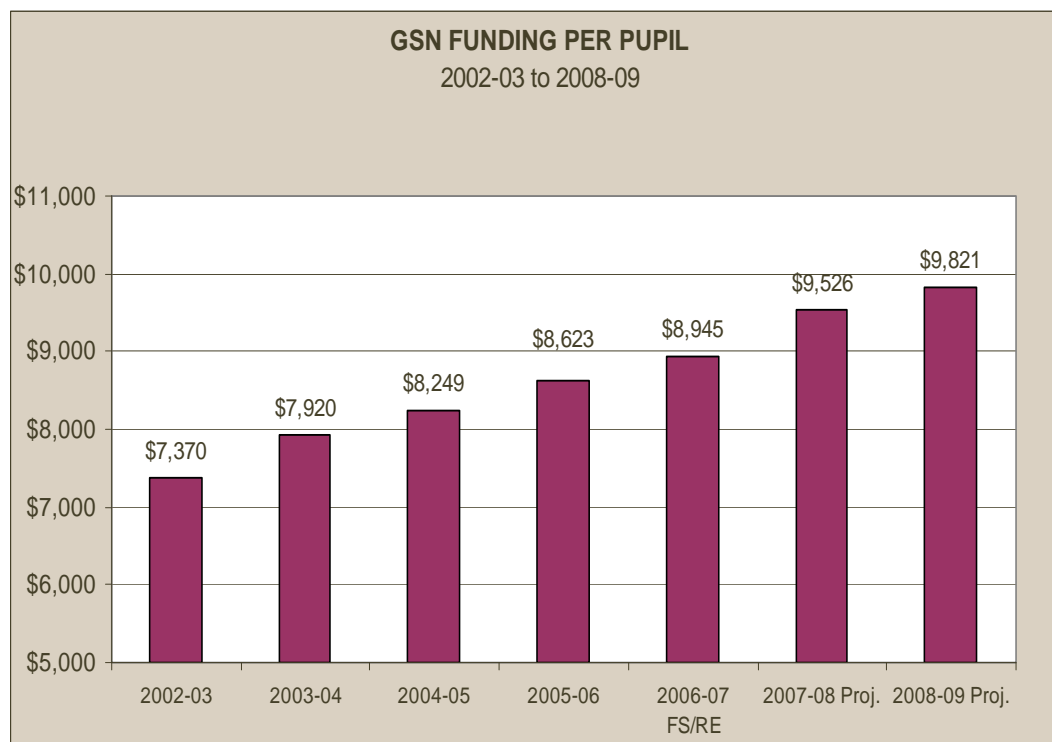
Overview – Total Funding

- The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) in 2008-09 is projected to be \$18.76B, or:
 - \$315M (1.7%) more than in 2007-08; and
 - \$4B (27%) more than in the 2002-03 school year.



Overview – Per-pupil Funding

- Per-pupil funding in 2008-09 is projected to rise to \$9,821. This is an increase of:
 - \$295 (3.1%) per pupil compared to the 2007-08 school year;
 - \$2,451 (33%) compared to the 2002-03 school year.



Overview – Provincial Labour Discussions

- The majority of collective agreements expire on August 31, 2008.
- The Province is facilitating discussions between boards and unions on issues which, if resolved provincially, would advance local bargaining.
- Once the current provincial labour discussions are concluded, there may be further enhancements to the 2008-09 GSN.



Budget Planning for 2008-09

- Boards are advised that the following two commitments from the 2004-08 labour framework will be completed in 2008-09:
 - \$103M to increase salary benchmarks for teaching and non-teaching staff by 0.7%.
 - \$44M to support the 10-minute increase in elementary preparation time from 190 to 200 minutes.
 - This translates into funding for 590 additional elementary specialist teachers for 2008-09.



New Investments: Safe Schools Supplement

- In 2008-09, the following two allocations from the Safe Schools Strategy are being transferred into the GSN's new \$43.5M Safe Schools Supplement:
 - \$10.5M to support professional resources for at-risk students; and
 - \$23M to support programs for students on long-term suspension or expulsion.
- New for 2008-09, the Government has introduced the \$10M Urban and Priority High Schools component to help schools, students, their families, and communities facing safety issues.
 - Boards will be advised of the selection criteria for eligible schools in the near future.

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New Investments: Community Use of Schools

- For 2008-09, the Community Use of Schools Allocation has been restructured and will be supported by a \$12.9M enhancement, bringing the total allocation to \$32.9M. The enhancement consists of:
 - \$6.5M to support energy and labour costs, reduced rates, and increased access to programs; and
 - \$6.4M to support the cost of Outreach Coordinators who will coordinate programs and ensure their effectiveness.
- This restructured allocation responds to the demand for school space for community activities during non-school hours.
- The Government has committed to increase funding to \$66M over the next four years.

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New Investments: Special Education

- An investment of \$57.3M will continue to support special education while work proceeds on new approaches to funding. This funding includes:
 - **High Needs Amount (HNA)** to keep, in 2008-09, funding stable in declining enrolment boards.
 - **Special Equipment Amount (SEA)** to recognize growth in demand for specialized equipment for students with special needs.
 - **Special Incidence Portion (SIP)** to recognize the number of claims made on behalf of students who require extraordinary staff support.
 - **Facilities Amount (FA)** to address non-salary costs, to establish and maintain the proposed Roy McMurtry Centre in Peel Region; and to increase the number of programs for children and youth in Government approved facilities.
- In addition, an investment of \$10M announced in August is unallocated at this time.
- This funding supports the Government's commitment to increase special education funding by 8% by 2011-12.

New Investments: Program Enhancement Grant

- An additional \$10M investment (announced in August) will increase the per-school amount used to calculate the grant to \$9,650.
- This represents an increase of \$2,150 per school and supports the Government's commitment to providing a well-rounded education through programs such as arts, music, outdoor education, and physical education.



New Investments: ESL/PDF

- A \$10M enhancement (announced in August) is being provided to the English as a Second Language (ESL) and Perfectionnement du français (PDF) components of the Language Grant.
- Funding will adjust the formula for calculating the allocation by increasing the weighting factor for second year immigrant students from the current 70% to 85%.
- This investment supports the Government's commitment to enhance ESL funding by 18% by 2011.



New Investments: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education

- A \$5M enhancement will be provided through the per-pupil funding component of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Supplement. This new funding is unallocated at this time.
- For the purposes of the GSN board-by-board projections, the per-pupil component, net of the \$5M, will be allocated based on 2001 Census data.
- The per-pupil component, including the \$5M, will be readjusted once the 2006 Census data is received and analysed by the Ministry. Boards will be advised of their new allocation before the end of the school year.

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New Investments: Adult Education

- A \$6.5M increase (announced in August) will enhance adult and continuing education. This funding is currently unallocated.



New Investments: Benefits

- A \$50M funding enhancement (announced in August) will raise some benefits benchmarks, as follows:

Staffing Category	2007-08 Benefits Benchmark	2008-09 Benefits Benchmark	Grants/Components Affected
Education Assistants	16.00%	24.00%	Pupil Foundation
Office Support Workers	16.65%	23.90%	School Foundation
Professional/Para-professionals	14.80%	19.00%	Pupil Foundation
Classroom Teachers (including: Teacher-Librarian Guidance Teacher Department Head)	11.10%	11.34%	Pupil Foundation Teacher Qualifications and Experience PCS Reduction Amount Supported Schools Actualisation linguistique en français (ALF) Native Studies/Native Languages



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New Investments: Non-salary Benchmarks

- An \$8.5M enhancement provides a 1% increase in non-salary benchmarks for items such as textbooks and learning materials, classroom supplies, classroom computers, and school office supplies.



New Investments: Student Transportation

- An enhancement of \$27.1M will increase student transportation by 3.5%. This enhancement includes:
 - \$10M (announced in August) to support wage enhancements for bus drivers;
 - \$15.4M to increase the cost benchmark by 2% for fuel, capital, and other operating costs; and
 - \$1.7M to support increased funding for growth boards.



New Investments: School Board Administration

- A \$10M increase (announced in August) will provide enhanced support for the cost of school board administration for low enrolment boards.
- All boards with an enrolment of less than 26,000 ADE will receive a base amount of \$200,000 in addition to the current base amount \$91,216.



New Investments: School Operations

- A \$10M enhancement to the School Operations Allocation was announced in August to address cost pressures such as custodial staff, utilities, and insurance.
- School Operations funding is being enhanced by a further \$7M to address the rising cost of energy and utilities.
 - This \$7M investment represents a 1% increase in the non-salary benchmark of the School Operations Allocation.



School Capital Programs: New Funding for 2008-09

- A one-year capital investment will support \$750M in existing capital programs and new capital commitments valued as follows:
 - \$250M for Good Places to Learn (GPL) Stage 4 to address school renewal needs; and
 - \$500M to continue to support school boards' capital needs.
 - This funding will be allocated to priority school projects to be built for 2010-11 and 2011-12.



School Capital Programs: New Schools in Growth Areas

- New funding of \$10M (announced in August) will support \$137M in construction activity for new schools in areas of significant residential development.
- Changes are being made to the Growth Schools Program so that more boards will qualify for new schools in areas of residential development in 2008-09.
 - Funding eligibility will be extended to schools that will open by 2011-12.
 - Funding eligibility will be extended to boards that do not have an Education Development Charge (EDC) by-law.

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School Capital Programs: Long-Term Financing

- The Ministry and the Ontario Financing Authority (OFA) will continue to offer a provincial long-term financing vehicle for:
 - Good Places to Learn (GPL) Renewal;
 - Prohibitive to Repair (PTR);
 - Primary Class Size (PCS) Reduction Capital;
 - Growth Schools; and
 - Capital Transitional Adjustment for French-language boards.
- The Ministry will also work with boards to provide long-term financing through the OFA for construction costs funded under the New Pupil Places allocation that are not permanently financed.
- Boards will continue to be reimbursed for their short-term interest costs for projects that are underway.

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School Capital Programs: New Capital Funding Model

- The capital financial analysis template, which is currently being completed by boards, will provide an accurate assessment of a board's current capital financial position.
- The Ministry will work with the sector to develop a new approach to address current capital needs.



Programs Transferred into the GSN: New Teacher Induction Program

- The New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) provides a full year of professional support so that new teachers can develop the skills and knowledge to be successful in the classroom.
- Starting in 2008-09, the \$15M NTIP allocation will become a component of the Cost Adjustment and Teacher Qualifications and Experience Grant.



Programs Transferred into the GSN: Reporting Entity Project

- The Reporting Entity Project supports boards with the costs of preparing and reporting financial information to the Ministry using standards prescribed by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB).
- Starting in 2008-09 the \$6M Reporting Entity Project allocation will become part of the Board Administration component of the School Board Administration and Governance Grant.



Reporting and Accountability: ESL/ELD Funding

- In 2008-09, each English-language school board is expected to:
 - show specific ESL/ELD allocations at the school and board level; and
 - indicate how these allocations support the board's strategy to improve student outcomes and the board's priority programs and activities.
- In 2008-09, the Ministry will work with boards to review their ESL/ELD strategies and programs.
- For 2009-10, each board will be expected to report publicly on its strategy to improve outcomes for students and the allocation of ESL/ELD funds to support this strategy.

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Due Date for Submission of Estimates

- The Ministry has established the following dates for submission of financial reports in the 2008-09 school year:
 - **June 30, 2008:** Board Estimates for 2008-09
 - **November 14, 2008:** Board Financial Statements for 2007-08
 - **December 12, 2008:** Board Revised Estimates for 2008-09
 - **May 15, 2009:** Board Financial Report for September 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009
- The Ministry expects that Estimates forms will be available on EFIS before April 10, 2008.



Declining Enrolment Working Group

- Declining enrolment has become a reality for more and more boards.
- A Declining Enrolment Working Group will be established to:
 - assess the effectiveness of current measures in the GSN designed to mitigate the impact of declining enrolment; and
 - study new strategies to help boards adjust their costs to declining enrolment in ways that advance the goals of student retention and student achievement.
- Recommendations of the Working Group will be an important part of the 2010 review of the funding formula.
- Details on the Working Group will be announced in the coming weeks.

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Investments Outside the GSN

- In 2008-09, the Government will continue to support other education initiatives with over \$270M in investments outside the GSN.
- Details will be announced by May 15, 2008.

