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2008-09 Grants for Student Needs

Summer Release

OVERVIEW

August 2008

Purpose

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



Update – Provincial Labour Discussions

- The majority of collective agreements expire on August 31, 2008.
- The Ministry facilitated provincial labour discussions between teacher federations and unions and the trustee associations, addressing issues which, if resolved provincially, would expedite local bargaining.
- 15 unions have reached a Provincial Discussion Table (PDT) Agreement with trustee associations, affecting a majority of the 475 collective agreements and 200,000+ employees in the sector.



Update – Provincial Labour Discussions

- More provincial talks are scheduled for September.
- Enhancements to the 2008-09 GSN announced today will be fully implemented once boards and unions ratify local agreements reflecting the provisions of the PDT Agreements.



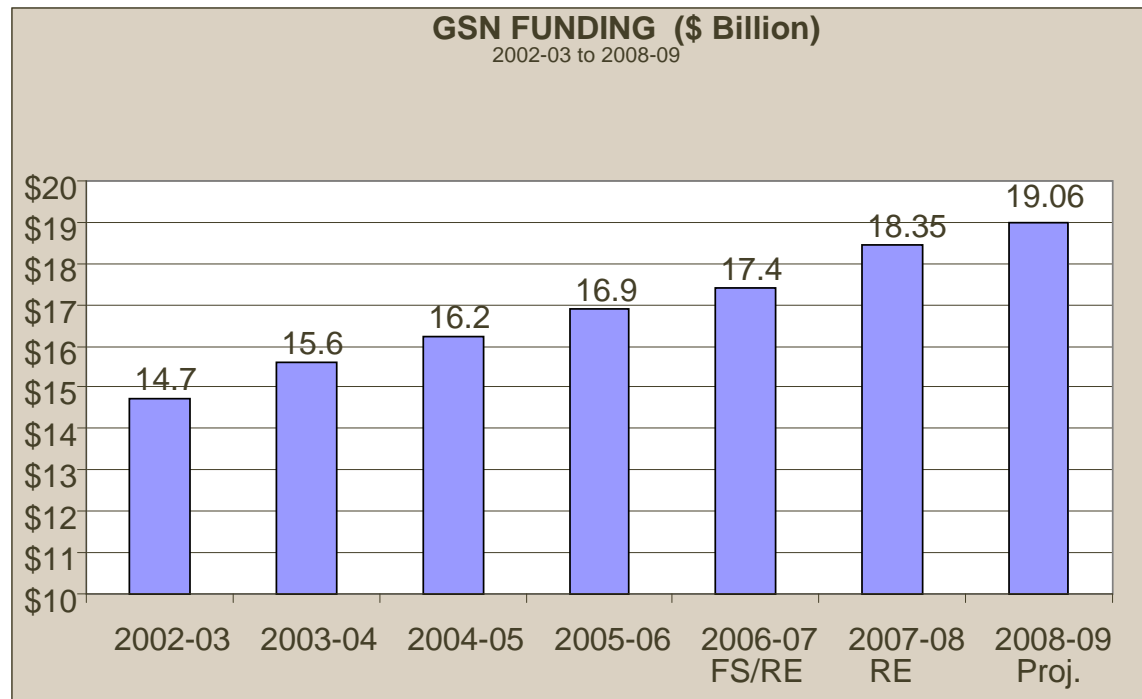
Today's Announcement

- In March 2008, we announced changes to the funding formula for 2008-09, as well as increased funding of \$315M.
- At the time, we noted that the \$315M increase did not include funding for salary increases and that an enhancement to salary benchmarks would follow provincial discussions.
- Today we are announcing increased funding for salaries in 2008-09. We are also announcing other enhancements and technical amendments to the GSN funding regulations.



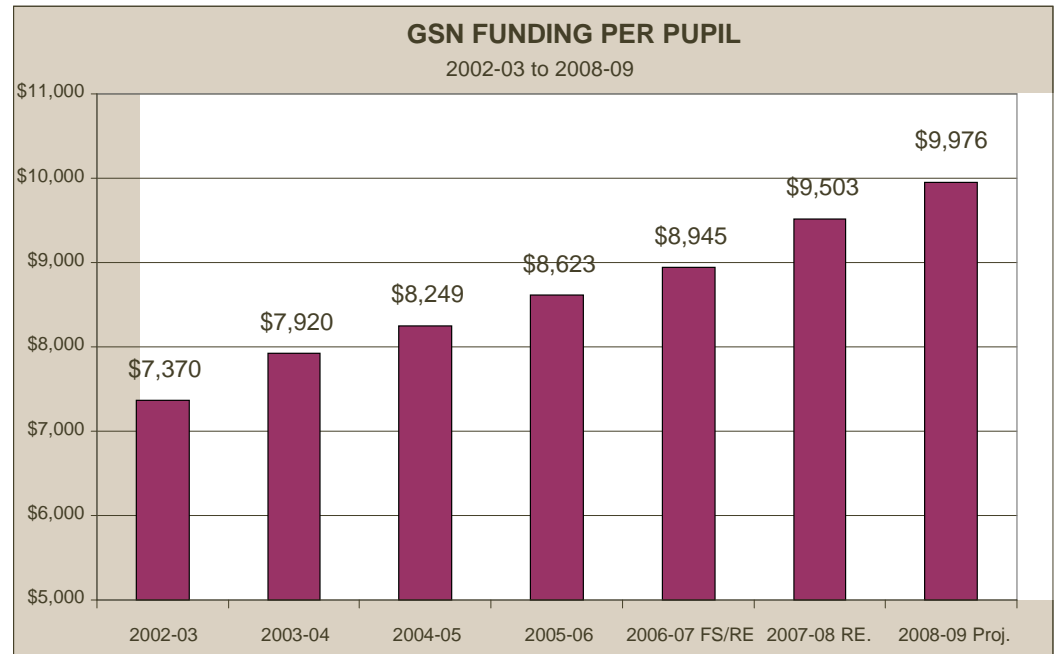
Overview – Total Funding

- The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) in 2008-09 is projected to be \$19.06B, or:
 - \$702.5M (3.8%) more than in 2007-08; and
 - \$4.3B (29%) more than in the 2002-03 school year.



Overview – Per-pupil Funding

- Per-pupil funding in 2008-09 is projected to be \$9,976. This is an increase of:
 - \$473 (5.0%) per pupil compared to the 2007-08 school year;
 - \$2,606 (35%) compared to the 2002-03 school year.



2% Salary Benchmark Increase

- The Government has decided to amend the GSN regulations to fund a 2% increase in salary benchmarks as of September 2008.
- These amendments have been approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and are now in effect.



Eligibility for the 2% Increase

- The 2% increase for salary benchmarks is equivalent to almost \$300M in additional funding.
- All boards will receive the 2% increase to salary benchmarks -- boards do not need to have local ratified agreements in place that meet the requirements of a PDT Agreement to receive the increased funding.
- This new funding will help boards manage and implement their staffing and budget plans for the 2008-09 school year.



Cash Flow Adjustments

- Funding for the 2% increase in all salary benchmarks will begin to flow to boards in September.
- Cash flow percentages will increase from September to December 2008, to give boards flexibility while local collective bargaining proceeds.
- This increased cash flow in the Fall will be balanced by corresponding decreases for January to March 2009. As a result, at the end of March 2009, boards will have received the same percentage total cash flow as in previous years.



PDT Eligibility

- The Ministry intends to release a draft GSN regulation that will detail a further increase in salary benchmarks in 2008-09 and the other funding enhancements in the PDT Agreements.
- Subject to approval of such a regulation by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a school board would receive a further 1% increase to the salary benchmarks (for a total of 3%), as well as the other enhancements in 2008-09 described in PDT Agreements, for those bargaining units where the board and the union have fully met several conditions.



PDT Eligibility (cont'd)

1. Board and union are part of a PDT Agreement.
2. All the bargaining units of the union within the board under the same PDT agreement have new collective agreements, ratified without job action or lock out, by November 30, 2008.
3. New agreement(s) expire on August 31, 2012.
4. All collective agreement(s) of the bargaining units of the union within the board under the same PDT Agreement are in full compliance with the terms of that PDT Agreement.
5. Board and union have written to the Ministry advising that their collective agreement(s) complies with the relevant PDT Agreement (s) and have provided supporting documentation.
6. Minister is of the opinion that the collective agreement(s) are in full compliance with the PDT Agreement.



PDT Eligibility (cont'd)

- The Minister would have four weeks after receiving a copy of the collective agreement to advise the parties in writing if, in her opinion, the collective agreement is not in full compliance with the PDT Agreement.
- Parties would have two weeks to respond to the Minister in writing.
- Minister would have two weeks to advise the parties in writing of the board's funding eligibility.



PDT Eligibility (cont'd)

- Boards are required to send their new collective agreement to the Ministry's Labour Relations and Governance Branch.
- Approximately \$210M in additional funding would be allocated in 2008-09, if all collective agreements were ratified under the terms of the PDT Agreements.
- The PDT incentive funding would begin to flow in January 2009.



2008-09 PDT Enhancements

- Additional 1% increase to salary benchmarks.
- \$27.3M for elementary supervision
 - Funds the equivalent of at least two hours of supervision per day per elementary school,
 - \$22.23 per elementary pupil in 2008-09 increase in the Pupil Foundation Grant.
- \$10.9M for secondary programming
 - Grows to \$84M by 2012-13,
 - 0.19 additional teacher funded per 1,000 secondary pupils in 2008-09.



2008-09 PDT Enhancements (cont'd)

- \$6.8M for occasional teachers
 - 3.5% benchmark increase to improve working conditions,
 - In addition to 3% salary increase.
- \$17M one-time for professional development and training of education support workers
 - \$8.91 per ADE in 2008-09.



Other PDT Enhancements Over Four Years

- \$2.5B annually by the end of the agreements.
- Salary benchmark increases of 3% for each year.
- Improvements in benefits and other working conditions.
- Targeted class size reductions in Grades 4 to 8.
- More arts and specialist teachers in elementary schools.
- New supports for students in Grades 7 and 8.
- More funding for elementary student supervision.
- Continued expansion of secondary programming.



Other PDT Enhancements Over Four Years (cont'd)

- More support from educational assistants
 - Student supervision,
 - After-school homework support,
 - Professional Activity days.
- Enhanced services in special education.
- More secretaries and custodians.
- Safer schools with more social workers, child and youth workers, other professionals, and other staff.



In-year Technical Amendments

- *A separate B-memorandum was released today with details on several in-year amendments which are now in effect.*
- **First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Supplement (FNMI)**
 - \$5M announced but not allocated in March 2008.
 - Amendment to update both the current funding and the new funding (\$5M) based on the 2006 census data instead of the 2001 census data used previously.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **Adult and Continuing Education**

- The \$7M increase for Adult Education will flow as announced in August 2007.
- The per-adult-student amount in the Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant will be increased to \$2,934 (\$2,880 plus 2% salary benchmark increase).



In-year Technical Amendments

- **New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)**
 - To ensure NTIP funding is spent for NTIP purposes, the Ministry has amended the regulations to provide funding to boards based on the lesser of the following:
 - actual expenditure for NTIP during the fiscal year; or
 - boards' entitlement based on the funding formula (\$20,000 per board and \$2,000 per new teacher).



In-year Technical Amendments

- **Reverse Tuition Agreement**
 - Funding for reverse tuition agreements for children residing off reserve, but attending federally funded schools on reserve, was limited to elementary students.
 - Funding has been extended to allow boards to pay tuition fees to cover both elementary and secondary students who reside off reserve and attend a school on reserve.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **School Office Supplies Benchmark in School Foundation Grant 2008–09**
 - The benchmark for school office supplies in the School Foundation Grant has been increased by 1%, which was not included as part of the March 2008–09 regulation.
 - This increase is consistent with the March GSN's 1% benchmark increase implemented for textbooks, learning materials, classroom supplies, and classroom computers.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **Tax Arrears**

- Effective December 31, 2008, a new municipal service provider will assume levying and taxing responsibility currently held by school boards for territories without municipal organization.
- The amendment will reimburse boards for uncollected taxes as of this date.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **New Pupil Places**

- The cost of moving portables was not explicitly recognized by the funding formula, except to meet the targets of the Primary Class Size initiative.
- The costs associated with the relocation of portables will now be eligible for funding under the Grant for New Pupil Places.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **Growth Schools, Prohibitive to Repair (PTR)**
 - Growth Schools and Prohibitive-to-Repair (PTR) tables have been amended to reflect the most recent Growth Schools and PTR funding approvals.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **Proceeds of Disposition**

- The regulation clarifies that boards are required to re-circulate a property they wish to dispose of through the identified agencies (e.g., school board, municipality, other government agency) if it has been more than 3 years since the property was first circulated.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **Amalgamation of Rainy River DSB and Mine Centre School on September 1, 2008.**
 - Funding has been increased for the trustee honoraria amount of the Rainy River DSB to reflect the amalgamation.
 - Tables have also been updated to reflect the addition of a “supported school” and an increased Supported Schools Allocation.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **Transportation**

- Funding adjustment to reset the transportation baseline for consortia that have been reviewed as part of the Effectiveness and Efficiency Review under Student Transportation Reform.
- An adjustment for the cost benchmark study has also been made.



In-year Technical Amendments

- **Operation of Schools**

- Limits the size of primary classes for gifted pupils to the same size that applies for grant purposes to regular primary classes.



Due Date for Submission of Estimates

- The Ministry has established the following dates for submission of financial reports in the 2008-09 school year:
 - **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 to release a new document set to support the September to December cash flow adjustments.

