

Ministry of Education
Student Success Implementation
Branch
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Ministère de l'Éducation
Direction de la mise en œuvre pour la
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Édifce Mowat, 16^e étage
900 rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



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).

The Information Package and the *SpeakUp* Projects Proposal online submission form can be accessed at <https://speakup.fluidreview.com>.

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:

Key Dates	Item
December 14, 2015	Applications open
January 22, 2016	Student Submission Due
February 5, 2016	Principal Recommendation Due
February 5, 2016	Applications close
Week of February 29, 2016	Send Approval / Not Approved Notice

Key Dates	Item
	<u>Note</u> : Students could begin their project once they receive funding approval
Week of March 21, 2016	Funding send to Boards
April 8, 2016	Pre-Project Plan Due (Opens Feb 19)
June 30, 2016	Post Project Reflection Due (Opens Feb 19)

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