

Ministry of Education

Field Services Branch

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MEMORANDUM TO:

Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary Treasurers of
School Authorities

FROM:

Ruth Flynn
Director
Inclusive Education Branch

DATE:

December 24, 2009

SUBJECT:

Parent Engagement Surplus Funds: 2008-09

As we review the report back information on 2008-09 parent engagement initiatives, we note that some boards have surplus funds pertaining to 2008-09. I am pleased to advise you that boards will be able to retain these surplus funds for use in future parent engagement initiatives. The following provides direction for the handling of these surplus funds:

1. Base Funding (\$5,000.00 plus 17 cents per student) for Board Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and \$500.00 for each school council

The board may retain the surplus amount in a reserve account designated for the funding of parent engagement activities as defined in the 2008-09 Financial Statements, Data Form E that was provided to school boards as a mechanism to report expenditures and revenues related to programs such as parent involvement. Funds must be spent by June 30, 2010.

2. Parents Reaching Out Grants for School Councils

Each school council that has surplus funds must spend the money on an initiative designed for parent engagement, consistent with the intent of its original application. Funds must be spent by June 30, 2010.

If a school council chooses not to continue working on a parent engagement initiative, the funds must be released to the board. The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) will determine the parent engagement activities for which these surplus funds will be used.

3. Parents Reaching Out Grants - Regional/Provincial

Unspent funds must be spent on the original application initiative or placed in the board's reserve account and then designated for the funding of other parent engagement activities. Funds must be spent by September 30, 2010.

Please share this information with all school councils having surplus funds from the 2008-09 PRO School Council Grants and with members of your board's PIC. To report on the use of the surplus funds, please complete the attached template by October 15, 2010. The attached template is also available in the Reporting Calendar on this link: <http://calendar.edu.gov.on.ca>.

As we move forward with the base funding for the 2009-2010 allocated through the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs), boards will be expected to spend the funding with the school year, and this is the final time that the surplus funds will be carried forward. With the spring release of the 2010-2011 Parent Reaching Out Grants, it is anticipated that the evaluation of the grants will take place earlier, and funding will be provided for the approved grants earlier in the school year.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on parent engagement initiatives and appreciate your board's commitment to parent engagement.

Sincerely,

Ruth Flynn

Attachment