



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School
Authorities

FROM: Elizabeth Harding
Director
Policy and Program Branch

DATE: February 4, 2008

RE: **Healthy Schools – *Funding for Daily Physical Activity in
Elementary Schools and Secondary School Student Engagement***

I am writing to provide you with information about funding for two Ministry of Education healthy schools initiatives, Daily Physical Activity (DPA) in elementary schools and Secondary School Student Engagement. The ministry recognizes that helping children and youth lead healthy, active lives is a shared responsibility in which schools play a critical role.

For 2007/08, the ministry is providing school boards/authorities with approximately \$2M to support the implementation of DPA in elementary schools and \$1M to support secondary school student engagement on healthy schools.

DPA in Elementary Schools

Funding for DPA will include a base amount of \$5,000 per school board and \$2,500 per school authority and an additional \$400 per elementary school. This funding must be used to support DPA implementation in key areas such as:

- **Professional Development** (e.g. opportunities for principals and teachers)
- **School Equipment** (e.g. skipping ropes, balls, bean bags)
- **Teacher Release Time** (for leadership, planning and/or additional training)
- **Human Resources** (e.g. services of experts/consultants/speakers)

The ministry has developed an e-learning module to help teachers, principals, and leaders in health and physical education make the 20 minutes of DPA a fun, safe and healthy part of each school day. The video clips show students participating in physical activities and how DPA can be done in the classroom, gymnasium, multipurpose areas, and outdoors. They also show warm-up and cool-down activities, including a range of stretches, descriptions, and mini clips of how to move in a variety of ways (e.g. skipping). The e-learning module can be accessed at www.eworkshop.on.ca/dpa.

Secondary School Student Engagement

The ministry is providing \$1,000 per secondary school for secondary school student engagement. This funding must be used to support secondary school student engagement in key areas such as:

- School board/authority-wide events to build capacity on secondary student engagement.
- School level events that student councils would organize to promote healthier schools.

School boards/authorities are to work with secondary school student leaders (e.g. trustees, student council representatives) to build capacity and are encouraged to develop a secondary school student engagement plan on healthy schools. The healthy schools section of the ministry's website, www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools includes a variety of resources to assist in the development of a plan, including the *Foundations for a Healthy School* framework.

Funding for both DPA and secondary school student engagement cannot be used for staff salaries or to purchase goods for which the ministry currently provides funding (e.g. textbooks).

Timelines and Requirements

The total allocation for your school board/authority for these healthy schools initiatives appears in the attached copy of the transfer payment agreement. Please sign and return two copies of the transfer payment agreement as soon as possible to the Ministry of Education.

Funding for these initiatives will be sent with the next regular instalment of your transfer payment once the ministry has received signed copies of the transfer payment agreement. This funding must be spent by June 30, 2008. Schools boards/authorities are required to report back to the ministry on their spending by completing the attached *Statement of Attestation and Conformity to Ministry of Education's Financial Requirements* (Schedule C) by September 29, 2008.

Should you have any questions regarding these investments, please contact Kelly MacDonald at (416) 325-2728 or kelly.macdonald@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help students lead healthy, active lives.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Elizabeth Harding

Attachment

- c. Barry Pervin, Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
Dominic Giroux, Assistant Deputy Minister
Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch
Regional Managers, Ministry of Education