

Ministry of Education

Assistant Deputy Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre adjoint

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



Memorandum To: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officer, James Bay Lowlands Secondary School
Board
Director, Provincial Schools Branch

From: Barry Pervin
Assistant Deputy Minister

Date: January 17, 2014

Subject: Healthy Eating in Secondary Schools Grant Application
(Deadline February 14, 2014)

To support the continued efforts of school boards and secondary schools to offer programs and activities that promote healthy eating and student well-being, we are pleased to announce the commencement of the **Healthy Eating in Secondary Schools Grants** program, a new funding opportunity offered through the Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Branch at the Ministry of Education. The application form for the program is attached.

The Healthy Eating in Secondary Schools Grant is intended to:

- Help transform the food culture in secondary schools and build sustainable partnerships;
- Be available to publicly funded school boards and secondary schools in Ontario, and partnering incorporated non-profit organizations or post-secondary institutions; and
- Provide funding of up to \$50,000 per project (for a total of approximately 44 projects), to be expended by **August 31, 2015**.

Application and Funding

- Grant applications must be submitted electronically by **February 14, 2014** to Healthy.Schools@ontario.ca.
- A selection committee will evaluate submissions based on the criteria identified in the application.
- All applicants will be notified about the status of their funding proposals by **February 28, 2014**.
- Successful applicants will receive a **Transfer Payment Agreement** that must be signed and returned electronically to the Ministry of Education by **March 10, 2014**.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete both an interim and final report for the ministry.
- There is no limit on the number of submissions permitted per applicant.

The ministry intends to share exemplary practices resulting from these grants. Participants may be requested to share exemplary practices with schools and school boards across the province. More details will follow from the ministry on sharing opportunities.

Why improve the food culture in schools?

It is widely acknowledged that healthy eating is essential to students' healthy growth and development. In addition, research explicitly recognizes that student achievement and well-being are intrinsically linked.

Key facts:

- Based on the most recent measured data, 28 per cent of Ontario children and youth are overweight or obese ([Canadian Community Health Survey, 2004](#)).
- Studies have shown that healthy eating habits are linked to improved academic performance; thus, school-based programs that promote healthy eating and physical activity not only can prevent childhood obesity, but also can improve academic performance (Florence, MD, Asbridge, M, Veugelers, PJ, 2008).
- A survey of students at School Food and Beverage Policy (SFBP) Youth Conference (March 2013) found that only 10 per cent of secondary students had a positive impression of their school cafeteria food.

If you have any inquiries or require any assistance completing the application form, please do not hesitate to contact your regional office.

I encourage you to share this funding opportunity with your networks, and thank you for your ongoing commitment to healthy schools and student well-being.

Original signed by

Barry Pervin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Leadership and Learning Environment Division

Enclosure

c: Kathy Verduyn
Director
Field Services Branch

Denys Giguère
Director
French-Language Education Policy & Programs Branch

Education Partnership Table members
Healthy Schools Working Table members