

Ministry of Education

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

FROM: John Malloy
Assistant Deputy Minister
Leadership and Learning Environment Division

DATE: March 3, 2015

SUBJECT: Parents Reaching Out Grants

We are pleased to announce the commencement of the 2015-16 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants program for school councils and regional/provincial projects.

A key component of our renewed vision *Achieving Excellence (2014)* is to recognize and encourage a wide range of opportunities for parent, guardian and caregiver engagement and involvement in their children's learning. We know that good schools become great schools when parents are engaged in their child's learning.

PRO grants support the ministry's goals and key priorities in reaching out to engage parents who are instrumental in driving the success of our students. This year, special consideration will be given to applicants who did not receive funding for 2014-15, and proposals that promote increased access and awareness of math strategies and resources for parents to support their children's learning at home and at school. PRO grants have been developed to help parents identify barriers and provide solutions to foster parent engagement in their local community.

During the 2014-15 school year, a total of 2,279 projects were funded from across the province. This includes 138 priority schools, all of which were approved for full or partial funding and 101 regional/provincial applications. Thank you very much for your contribution in making this program a success.

There are two components to the PRO grants initiative. Grants are available to school councils for a maximum of \$1,000 for school-based initiatives. A maximum of \$30,000 per project will be made available for eligible regional/provincial initiatives.

The PRO grants for school councils are intended to support school-based initiatives to reach parents who face barriers that prevent them from becoming involved in their children's learning at home and at school. School councils may develop proposals individually, with other school councils in the same board, or with other groups in the school or in the community.

The PRO grants for regional/provincial projects are available to Parent Involvement Committees, parent organizations, school boards, non-profit organizations and post-secondary institutions working in partnership with parents to support student achievement and well-being. Eligible projects must align with at least one of the following four strategies of the ministry's parent engagement policy: Parents as Partners; Welcoming School Board and School Environment for all Parents; Skill Building Opportunities for Parents; and Enhancing Communication between School and Parents.

Please note that the deadline for the 2015-16 PRO grant submissions is **Tuesday, May 19, 2015**. Applications are required to be submitted electronically. For more information, please visit the [ministry website](#).

If you have questions, please contact Shauna Carpenter, Lead Policy/Program Coordinator at 416-325-7802 / shauna.carpenter@ontario.ca or Ayn Posada, Senior Policy Advisor, at 416-325-7774 / ayn.posada@ontario.ca

Thank you for your support of the PRO grant program and for encouraging parent participation in this program throughout your board.



John Malloy
Assistant Deputy Minister
Leadership and Learning Environment Division

cc. Regional Office Managers and Parent Engagement Leads, Executive Assistants