

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

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Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Memorandum To: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

CC: Superintendents of Special Education
Superintendents of Business

From: Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister

Date: May 19, 2017

Subject: Funding for Northern Supports Initiative

I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Education is providing \$22 million in special education funding to Northern Ontario school boards, to support students with special education needs. Funding will be distributed through the new Northern Supports Initiative (NSI) and increases to the Special Education Grant (SEG). The ministry will be providing \$7 million in Education Program - Other (EPO) funding for the NSI, with the aim of providing collaborative, innovative, effective, timely and efficient special education supports to students in our Northern Ontario school boards.

NSI funding will be provided to two cooperatives: an English-language cooperative of the 16 school boards in Northern Ontario and a French-language cooperative of the 6 school boards in Northern Ontario. The NSI areas of focus, funding allocation and accountability mechanisms will be jointly developed by participating school boards and ministry staff. Together we will develop this NSI framework and support equity in access to services and improved outcomes for students with special education needs in Northern Ontario.

To initiate the creation of the cooperatives, the ministry will be inviting you to participate in a teleconference before the end of May, on a date to be determined. School boards, in consultation with ministry staff, will work collaboratively to implement the new NSI framework for the 2017-18 school year, which will:

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- Support innovative and cooperative programs and services that deliver special education supports
- Support collaborative service delivery objectives, such as sharing service professionals at the board level, to meet the needs of children and youth with special education needs in Northern Ontario
- Provide school boards with additional resources, such as mental health and/or behavioural supports, to ensure students with special education needs have the opportunity to succeed
- Align with other Ontario initiatives like the [Special Needs Strategy](#) and [Moving on Mental Health](#).

Included in this investment, I would like to also inform you that the ministry is investing \$15 million in the Special Education Grant. This \$15 million investment recognizes that boards operating in remote and rural communities, and/or in a minority language context have unique challenges in supporting students with special education needs.

For more information about these SEG increases, as well as all other allocations of the Special Education Grant, please refer to the ministry's [Education Funding, 2017-18](#) page.

Thank you all for your on-going commitment to support success for all students. We look forward to working with you on this important endeavour. If you have any questions, please direct them to Louise Sirisko, director, Special Education/Success for All, at 416-325-2889 or louise.sirisko@ontario.ca.



Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister of Education