



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

FROM: Elizabeth Harding
Director
Policy and Program Branch

DATE: November 5, 2008

RE: **Healthy Schools – *Funding for Healthy Schools***

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Education is providing \$3M in total for Daily Physical Activity (DPA) in elementary schools and Secondary School Student Engagement in 2008-09. The ministry recognizes that schools have a significant influence on the health and well-being of children and youth and that helping students to lead healthy, active lives is a shared responsibility in which schools play a critical role.

DPA in Elementary Schools (\$2M)

Daily physical activity is critical to making schools healthier places to learn and improving student achievement. In order to support further training and materials the ministry is providing a base amount of \$5,000 per school board and \$2,500 per school authority and an additional amount of \$400 per elementary school. This funding can be used for:

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

Secondary School Student Engagement (\$1M)

In order to help engage students and build secondary school capacity in healthy schools the ministry is providing school boards with \$1,000 per secondary school. The funds should be directed towards activities that are led by secondary student councils and can be used for

- **Training** (e.g. board/authority-wide events, student leadership training)
- **Program Materials** (e.g. materials related to the planning, implementing and celebrating of the event)
- **Human Resources** (e.g. services of speakers/community agencies).

Funding for 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:

Kelly MacDonald, Senior Policy Analyst
Policy and Program Branch
Ministry of Education
900 Bay Street, 15th Floor Mowat Block
Toronto, ON, M7A 1L2
Fax (416) 325-4344

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, 2009. 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 30, 2009.

Should you have any questions regarding these investments, please contact Steve Soroko, Healthy Schools Implementation Coordinator at (416) 314-4587 or steve.soroko@ontario.ca.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to participate in the *Healthy Schools Recognition Program* that Minister Wynne and Minister Best announced on October 29, 2008. To be recognized, schools can come up with a healthy living activity of their own, expand on previous activities, or participate in existing programs. Participating schools will receive a certificate and pennant to display in the school. For more information about the *Healthy Schools Recognition Program* and other healthy schools initiatives, including the *Foundations for a Healthy School* framework, visit the healthy schools section of the ministry's website, www.ontario.ca/healthyschools.

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

Sincerely,

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