

Ministry of Education
The Literacy and Numeracy
Secretariat

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School
Authorities
Director of the Provincial Schools Branch
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Leger

FROM: Mary Jean Gallagher
Chief Executive Officer &
Chief Student Achievement Officer
The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

DATE: October 22, 2008

SUBJECT: ACHIEVING OUR GOAL: Funding for 2008-2009

In Ontario we have much of which to be proud. We have international colleagues who visit Ontario to learn about and replicate the strategies being implemented to improve student achievement. We are gaining international recognition because of the fine work you and your schools are doing. While we are proud of the gains we have made, we still have much to do. We owe it to the children of Ontario to keep our sights high.

As we move forward in our improvement efforts, it is important to reflect on the fine work that has been done across Ontario over the last few years. All boards can celebrate the areas of excellence that are evident throughout the system. We have learned valuable lessons through our experiences with OFIP schools and Schools on the Move. The question that we all face is, how do we share the lessons learned so that all schools employ these successful practices. At the Secretariat, we believe that we have seen in Ontario, what needs to happen to ensure that all schools succeed at high levels. We are committed to provide, in partnership with boards, the resources needed to implement these practices across schools and boards. Below is an overview of the funds that are being made available to boards this year. You may have already received some of this information but we felt it would be helpful to provide a recap.

OFIP

This year we are committed to provide boards with consistent funding for OFIP so that boards can assist low achieving schools (OFIP 1 and 2) and static and declining schools (OFIP 3) for the current school year. Funding will be the same for 2008-2009 as it was in 2007-2008. Boards have been asked to direct most of these funds to release-time so that

school staff can work collaboratively within and across schools to improve instructional practice. **For those boards that did not use the funds allocated in the 2007-2008 school year, those funds remaining will be deducted from the 2008-2009 allocation.** Over the coming months we will be reviewing the allocation to boards for 2009-2010 in order to align funds with emerging priorities and current fiscal realities. We would encourage boards to identify successful practices and set budget priorities in anticipation of an alignment and redeployment of a portion of past OFIP funds.

OFIP Tutoring

OFIP tutoring has been a well received initiative that provides additional support to struggling students through before and after school tutoring in literacy and numeracy. Boards will receive the same funding for this initiative for the 2008-2009 school year as they have in the past. **For those boards that did not use the funds allocated in the 2007-2008 school year, the remaining funds will be deducted from the 2008-2009 allocation.**

School Effectiveness Framework

The School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) brings together all of a school's activities in pursuit of improved student achievement. It helps the entire school community see the "big picture" with all its many detailed parts which must come together to achieve success. LNS is committed to the continuation of the SEF Lead position within boards for 2008-2009. The SEF Leads work directly with schools to ensure self-assessments are conducted, district reviews take place, school improvement plans are in place and to monitor improvement in student achievement. This position reports directly to the director and provides on-going analysis and feedback to LNS regarding student achievement and improvement efforts in boards.

For those boards that did not use all of their SEF Lead funds and SEF implementation funds allocated in the 2007-2008 school year, the remaining funds will be deducted from the 2008-2009 funding.

Schools Helping Schools

Through OFIP and Schools on the Move we have identified effective strategies that have been shown to improve student achievement. In order to ensure that all students receive instruction that enables them to reach high levels of achievement, it is essential that successful strategies be shared within and across schools. In addition, we have seen that the implementation of teaching learning pathways is an effective strategy for ensuring improvement efforts are focused on the greatest area of need for students. When schools work within and across schools to improve instruction improved achievement is sustainable. As mentioned in an earlier memo, we are committed to providing boards with funding to assist them with the costs of release time when developing networks to share successful practices. Clustering like schools with different levels of performance so that high performing schools can assist low achieving schools will enable boards to leverage lessons learned so that all schools benefit. Boards that are implementing the teaching learning critical pathways may use some of these funds to assist with costs for release time. Additional information regarding this funding will be sent to boards in November.

Character Development

The framework document, *Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario Schools K-12* has been posted on the Ministry website. A summary of this framework document will be released to boards this fall as well as a resource document entitled *Character Development in Action: Successful Practices in Ontario Schools K-12*. Funding to support this initiative is being transferred to boards in October.

Report Back for Funding

In November boards will receive information outlining requirements for a year-end report back for these funds. Should you have any questions once you have received the detailed information about your board's funding contact Nina Chahal (nina.chahal@ontario.ca).

Your leadership and commitment to providing the best possible education for the students of Ontario ensures that our children will have a bright and promising future. Together we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Mary Jean Gallagher

Cc: EDU Deputy Minister
EDU Assistant Deputy Ministers
Senior Business Officials
Regional Managers
SAO Field Team Leaders