



*We are a Christ-centered Catholic faith community  
that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth,  
inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.*

*AGENDA AND MATERIAL*

## BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023  
6:30 P.M.**



*PUBLIC ACCESS LIVE STREAM LINK  
<https://niagaracatholic.ca/meetings-livestream/>*

*FATHER KENNETH BURNS, C.S.C. BOARD ROOM CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO*

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

- |     |   |        |
|-----|---|--------|
| 1.  | Land Acknowledgement  | -      |
| 2.  | Opening Prayer – Trustee Huibers  | -      |
| 3.  | Roll Call   | -      |
| 4.  | Approval of the Agenda  | -      |
| 5.  | Declaration of Conflict of Interest   | -      |
| 6.  | Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 28, 2023  | A6     |
| 7.  | <u>Consent Agenda Items</u>   |        |
| 7.1 | Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 11, 2023 and Consideration of Recommendations | A7.1   |
|     | 7.1.1 Electronic Communications Systems (Employees) Policy (201.12)   | A7.1.1 |
|     | 7.1.2 Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12)   | A7.1.2 |
| 7.2 | Approved Minutes of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of March 8, 2023                          | A7.2   |
| 7.3 | Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of March 1, 2023                    | A7.3   |
| 7.4 | In-Camera Agenda Items F1, F2 & F3  | -      |

### B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

### C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

- |    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Advancing Student Achievement for Students Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Low Vision – Gino | C1 |
| 2. | Building the Foundation; Communication for Learning – Gino  | C2 |
| 3. | Elementary Virtual School Plan for 2023-2024  | C3 |
| 4. | Grants for Student Needs Funding – Giancarlo  | C4 |
| 5. | Financial Reports as at March 31, 2023  | C5 |

**D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS**

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. Correspondence  | -    |
| 2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended  | -    |
| 3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action  | -    |
| 4. Trustee Information   |      |
| 4.1 Calendar of Events – May 2023  | D4.1 |
| 4.2 CCSTA AGM – June 1-3, 2023   | D4.2 |
| 4.3 Draft Letter to Minister Lecce   | D4.3 |
| 5. Open Question Period  |      |
| <i>(The purpose of the Open Question Period is to allow members of the Catholic school supporting public to ask about items on that night's public agenda or any previous agendas, and the Board to answer and react.)</i> |      |

**E. NOTICES OF MOTION**

1. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMISSION
2. NOTICE OF MOTION PRESENTATION

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA****G. REPORT ON IN CAMERA SESSION****H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS****I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE****J. ADJOURNMENT**

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BOARD  
MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2023**

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 28, 2023, as presented.



# MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

## TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Di Lorenzo.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Recognition

Land Recognition statement was delivered by Student Trustee Johnstone

2. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Burkholder

3. Roll Call

Chair Di Lorenzo noted that Trustee Huibers asked to be excused.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Natalia Benoit	✓			
Joseph Bruzzese	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers				✓
Doug Joyner	✓			
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Charlotte Johnstone	✓			
Steffen Zylstra	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education; **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Kimberly Kinney, Gino Pizzoferrato, Pat Rocca**, Superintendents of Education; **Domenic Massi, Joseph Zaroda**, Associate Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Clark Euale**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Julia Tiessen**, Executive Officer of Human Resources; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Turner

Seconded by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of March 28, 2023, as presented.

**CARRIED**

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No Declaration of Conflict of Interest were declared with any items on the Agenda.

6. **Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting of February 28, 2023**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Joyner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of February 28, 2023, as presented.

**CARRIED**

7. **Consent Agenda Items**

7.1 **Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 7, 2023 and Consideration of Recommendations**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of March 7, 2023, as presented.

7.1.1 **Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability Policy (NEW)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability Policy (NEW), as presented.

7.1.2 **School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure Policy (500.1)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the School Operations for Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure Policy (500.1), as presented.

7.1.3 **Student Senate – Elementary Policy (100.6.2)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Student Senate – Elementary Policy (100.6.2), as presented.

**7.1.4 Student Senate – Secondary Policy (100.6.1)**

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Student Senate – Secondary Policy (100.6.1), as presented.

**7.2 Board Committee Membership**

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the change of membership to the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee from all Trustees to 4 Trustees.

**7.3 Approved Minutes of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of November 12, 2019**

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of November 12, 2019, as presented.

**7.4 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of February 1, 2023**

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of February 1, 2023, as presented.

**7.5 Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) of January 12, 2023**

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of January 12, 2023, as presented.

**7.6 In-Camera Items F1, F3 & F4**

Moved by Trustee Marino  
Seconded by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board adopt the consent agenda items.

**CARRIED**

**B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**1. EQAO Presentation**

Chair Di Lorenzo introduced EQAO Chair Dr. Cameron Montgomery and Julia Ball, Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Montgomery provided a presentation on EQAO.

Dr. Montgomery and Ms. Ball answered questions of Trustees.

**2. Niagara Catholic District School Board Enrolment Projections**

Clark Euale, Controller of Facilities Services provided background information on Enrolment Projections and introduced Jack Ammendolia, Managing Partner of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

Mr. Ammendolia presented the Niagara Catholic District School Board Enrolment Projections.

Mr. Ammendolia answered questions of Trustees.

## **C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Communications Update – Advertising Campaign**

Director Cipriano provided background information on Advertising Campaign and introduced Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer.

Ms. Pellegrini presented the Communications Update – Advertising Campaign report.

Ms. Pellegrini answered questions of Trustees.

### **2. French Immersion**

Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education provided background information on French Immersion and introduced Mary Vetere, K-12 French as a Second Language Consultant/Numeracy Coach and Christopher Moscato, Principal, Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary School.

Ms. Vetere and Mr. Moscato presented the French Immersion report for Trustee information.

Ms. Vetere and Mr. Moscato answered questions of Trustees.

## **D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Correspondence**

Nil

### **2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended**

Nil Report

### **3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action**

Nil Report

### **4. Trustee Information**

#### **4.1 Calendar of Events – April 2023**

Director Cipriano highlighted the April 2023 calendar of events and reminded Trustees of the FACS Niagara Foundation Spring Gala on April 21, 2023.

Director Cipriano asked Trustees to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

#### **4.2 OCSTA 2023 AGM Resolutions & 2022 Resolutions Final Status Chart**

Provided for information.

**4.3 OCSTA AGM – June 1-3, 2023**

Provided for future planning.

**5. Open Question Period**

None Submitted

**E. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**1. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMISSION**

None Submitted

**2. NOTICE OF MOTION PRESENTATION**

None Presented

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Marino

Seconded by Trustee Bruzzese

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

**CARRIED**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 8:58 p.m. and reconvened at 9:27 p.m.

**G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Moved by Trustee Marino

Seconded by Trustee Bruzzese

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of March 28, 2023.

**CARRIED**

**SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Marino

Seconded by Trustee Joyner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of February 28, 2023, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE**



## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Marino

Seconded by Trustee Bruzzese

**THAT** the March 28, 2023 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

---

---

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **March 28, 2023**.

Approved on **April 25, 2023**.

---

Danny Di Lorenzo  
Chair of the Board

---

Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: ADVANCING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR STUDENTS  
WHO ARE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING AND BLIND/LOW  
VISION**

---

---

Advancing Student Achievement for Students Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and  
Blind/Low Vision report is presented for information.

---

---

Prepared by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education  
Babette Bailey, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Tara Formisano, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Carole Vanderlee, Teacher of the Blind/Low Vision

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023



## **REPORT TO THE BOARD APRIL 25, 2023**

### **ADVANCING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING AND BLIND/LOW VISION**

---

---

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The role of the Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Teacher of the Blind/Low Vision directly aligns within the Niagara Catholic strategic direction, to advance student achievement, to build acceptance and student belonging and to help prepare students to live out Catholic School Expectations. Teachers of the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing and Blind/Low Vision directly support students within their home schools to successfully access the Ontario curriculum.

Hearing loss has a rolling impact on a student's speech and language development, their communication skills, the development of literacy and numeracy and their social/emotional wellness. These teachers work in collaboration with the student's school educational team and outside agencies to create a learning environment that meets the student's auditory needs. Student learning expectations are drawn from assessment outcomes establishing programming that is precise; specifically targeting the need of each student. For optimal learning, all students with hearing loss require FM technology in the classroom. It's their pathway to academic achievement.

The Teacher of the Blind and Low Vision directly support students within their home schools to learn essential skills to successfully access the Ontario curriculum. Since nearly 80% of all learning is visual, this presents a unique challenge for students who are visually impaired. Students with visual impairments require direct instruction in literacy, visual efficiency, accessing the curriculum and require educational interventions that are beneficial to students in the educational setting. In addition to the core curriculum, students with visual impairments require instruction in a unique set of skills-The Expanded Core Curriculum. Intervention from the Teacher of the Blind and Low Vision is necessary to provide direct instruction in this area, including supporting students' mental health and wellness.

Through collaboration and information sharing, the teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing and the teacher of the blind/low vision provide students who are identified as deafblind with a unique educational program. A student who is deafblind has a combined loss of vision and hearing. A range of learning opportunities and a variety of teaching modalities (auditory, visual, kinesthetic, and tactual) are provided in an accessible environment to ensure the student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Advancing Student Achievement for Students Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/low  
Vision report is presented for information.

---

Prepared by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education  
Babette Bailey, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Tara Formisano, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Carole Vanderlee, Teacher of the Blind/Low Vision

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: BUILDING THE FOUNDATION; COMMUNICATION FOR  
LEARNING**

---

The Building the Foundation; Communication for Learning report is presented for information.

---

Prepared by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education  
Lori DiMatteo Marcella, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Katherine Grzybala, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Kavitha Harrington, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Kelly Keighan, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Brittany Wiken, Speech-Language Pathologist

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REPORT TO THE BOARD APRIL 25, 2023

### **BUILDING THE FOUNDATION; COMMUNICATION FOR LEARNING**

---

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Honouring our mission statement: Advancing Student Achievement for all Students, Speech-Language Pathologists (S-LPs) are Regulated Healthcare Professionals who support all students with communication delays including Developmental Language Disorders (DLD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), cognitive communication delays, social pragmatic delays, non-verbal disabilities, and students requiring augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). S-LPs can identify students at risk for learning difficulties, assess students' communication skills and provide recommendations and resources based on assessment results to ensure that all students reach their full learning potential in speech, language and literacy.

The identification of students with communication delays promotes learning environments and opportunities that are equitable and inclusive to a student's individual learning strengths and needs, and create a sense of belonging by fostering communication development. The S-LP team provides service delivery through a tiered model, which offers a continuum of supports and classroom-based interventions. Partnerships and collaboration with community partners support the transition of services to help a student achieve their social, academic and communication goals. Coordination of services for students with significant or complex communication needs is vital to their success and inclusivity.

School board S-LPs work under the Policy/Program Memorandum 81 which describes the provision of health support services in school settings. This document outlines the responsibilities of school board S-LPs and other healthcare professionals. School board S-LPs are responsible for the assessment and provision of services for students with language disorders. Language competence is an integral component of the classroom program (PPM 81). Oral language skills include speaking and listening and, are the foundation for all classroom learning throughout the primary grades and beyond. Oral language skills are the building blocks of children's literacy development and academic success. Students need to have the ability to listen, understand and use words and sentences before learning to read and write. As language abilities strengthen and solidify, children become more adept communicators and readers. The result is an increase in children's confidence and overall well-being.

The S-LP team continues to build teacher capacity by providing workshops to school teams. Speech-language pathologists play an important role in the prevention of literacy problems. In response to the Right to Read document, the S-LP team has continued to support Niagara Catholic's literacy initiative through teacher education (virtual and in person in-servicing), in addition to staff coaching.

Communication disorders do not discriminate. Speech and language disorders can affect anyone at any age. S-LPs understand how speech-language delays affect student learning and their academic and social success. Students with communication disorders often struggle with academics, have difficulty understanding and expressing themselves, perform poorly on tests, and sometimes avoid attending school and socializing with their peers. S-LPs help many students become effective communicators, problem-solvers, and decision makers. S-LPs strive to help all students reach their full potential.

“Language development is central to students’ intellectual, social, and emotional growth, and must be seen as a key element of the curriculum. Language is the basis for thinking, communicating, and learning. Students need language skills in order to comprehend ideas and information, to interact socially, to inquire into areas of interest and study, and to express themselves clearly and demonstrate their learning. Learning to communicate with clarity and precision, orally, in writing, and through a variety of media, will help students to thrive in the world beyond school”. (UNESCO, Statement for the United Nations Literacy Decade, 2003–2012).

Building the Foundation; Communication for Learning report is presented for information.

---

Prepared by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education  
Lori DiMatteo Marcella, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Katherine Grzybala, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Kavitha Harrington, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Kelly Keighan, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Brittany Wiken, Speech-Language Pathologist

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: ELEMENTARY VIRTUAL SCHOOL PLAN FOR 2023-2024**

---

---

The Elementary Virtual School Plan for 2023-2024 is presented for information.

---

---

Prepared by: Domenic Massi, Associate Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Domenic Massi, Associate Superintendent of Education

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023





## **REPORT TO THE BOARD APRIL 25, 2023**

### **ELEMENTARY VIRTUAL SCHOOL PLAN FOR 2023-2024**

---

---

#### **BACKGROUND**

The March, 2020, COVID 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the delivery of education in Ontario. School boards, educators, students and their families have demonstrated resiliency and flexibility in responding to changes in their learning environments and we have come a long way in embracing new ways of teaching, learning and connecting. These efforts have helped schools remain healthy and safe places to learn and work and have supported the continuity of learning for students during this difficult time. The worldwide pandemic prompted school boards in Ontario to pivot from in-person classroom learning to virtual learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

For the 2021-22 school year, the Ministry of Education focused on supporting the health, safety and well-being of students, families and staff. Based on advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, schools are permitted to open for in-person learning with health and safety measures in place for the 2021-22 school year. Students were able to attend in-person learning daily for the full school day (five instructional hours) in elementary and secondary schools across the province, and as noted in Memorandum 2021:B07 Planning for the 2021-22 School Year, remote learning remained an option.

#### **GRANTS FOR STUDENT NEEDS - VIRTUAL**

The COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund provided temporary funding for additional staffing supports. Previously provided through PPF for staffing, this funding allowed school boards to continue to hire teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants, and other education workers. As part of this grant, school boards were required to provide the option for remote learning in the 2022-23 school year. School boards were permitted to establish one virtual school per elementary and secondary panel based on local demand, where the funding would support the hiring of principals, vice-principals, teachers, school-based administrative support, and/or IT support.

In February, 2022, the provincial government mandated that all school boards provide full remote learning options for the 2022-2023 school year. However, the priority of the government at that time was focusing on the return to in-class learning, stating that being in school with peers and in front of educators will aid in the mental, physical and social emotional health of children.

Each school board's funding for the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund was set out in the GSN regulation. Niagara Catholic received approximately 3.0M in funding to provide some of these funds for our Elementary Virtual School. Niagara Catholic dedicated approximately \$2.5M to the Elementary Virtual School. Unfortunately, this funding will expire at the end of August 2023.

## **AVERAGE DAILY ENROLMENT VIRTUAL SCHOOL**

In the 2021-2022 school year, the Elementary Virtual School had an enrolment of approximately 503 pupils. However, this demand in the 2023-2024 school year has declines to approximately 45 pupils. The ability for Niagara Catholic to effectively and efficiently model a virtual school for only 45 students has become increasingly challenging. In addition, the ministry has not committed to mandating school boards to provide remote learning for students. Therefore, the Niagara Catholic District School Board will cease the operation of the elementary virtual school moving forward.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To continue to accommodate these few students that requested an elementary virtual learning environment for the 2023-2024 school year, Niagara Catholic has decided to join an elementary remote learning consortium led by Waterloo Catholic District School Board. This plan will accommodate the elementary remote student and provide a better learning environment and experience for all our students. In addition, this recommendation will allow Niagara Catholic an effective partnership which will continue to optimize our funding models and avoid cohorting divisional grades (i.e. triple grading). Finally, elementary students wanting to continue remote learning will continue to have the opportunity to engage in virtual learning through this partnership beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

The Elementary Virtual School Plan for 2023-2024 is presented for information.

---

Prepared by:           Domenic Massi, Associate Superintendent of Education  
Presented by:           Domenic Massi, Associate Superintendent of Education  
Approved by:           Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Date:                    April 25, 2023

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: 2023-2024 GRANTS FOR STUDENT NEEDS FUNDING**

---

---

The 2023-2024 Grants for Student Needs Funding is presented for information.

---

---

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023



## **REPORT TO THE BOARD APRIL 25, 2023**

### **2023-2024 GRANTS FOR STUDENT NEEDS FUNDING**

---

---

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On April 17, 2023 the Ministry of Education released the 2023-2024 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for the 2023-2024 school year. GSN funding is projected to be \$27.1 billion, while the average provincial per-pupil base funding is projected to be \$13,125 in 2023–24. Base funding has increased by \$693 million or 2.7 per cent compared to 2022-23. This additional investment in public education demonstrates the government’s commitment to providing students with access to the skills and opportunities they need to succeed. There is a further \$516.2 million in Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF), bringing the total investment in public education to \$27.6 billion. The PPF funding is outlined in Appendix C.

This year’s GSN includes targeted investments and adjustments for a range of initiatives, with highlights including student transportation funding model reform and related investments; summer learning supports; funding in support of the ongoing labour negotiations; Indigenous education priorities; and previous PPF investments continued through the GSN; new investments for the administration of remote learning and to support safe and clean schools; as well as other updates to support key priorities.

#### **A. NEW FUNDING FORMULA FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

Starting in the 2023–24 school year, the ministry is implementing a new Student Transportation Grant funding framework that is transparent, equitable, and focused on reliability. The Student Transportation Grant is projected to be \$1,233.2 million in 2023-24 and is made up of the following three allocations:

- Transportation Services Allocation - \$1,225.8 million
- School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation - \$1.7 million
- Transportation to Provincial or Demonstration Schools Allocation - \$5.7 million

As this is the first year of a new funding formula, the grant includes a Transition amount to ensure that no school board experiences a decline in funding compared to their allocation from the 2022–23 school year. The Transition amount is expected to be in place for four years (through the 2026–27 school year) and will be updated annually to reflect changes in enrolment, new routing results, and changes to benchmarks.

#### **B. FUNDING FOR REMOTE LEARNING ADMINISTRATION**

The ministry is providing a \$10.1 million investment in the School Foundation Grant to support remote learning administration. For students who wish to enroll in remote learning, school

boards may offer remote learning instruction directly, they may partner with another school board to provide remote learning instruction on their behalf, or they may work with other school boards to deliver remote learning collaboratively.

### **C. LABOUR RELATED CHANGES**

Updates to salary benchmarks and other funding elements are being made to reflect:

- A \$1 per hour increase in education worker salary benchmarks in the 2022–23 school year over the 2021–22 school year, with a further \$1 per hour increase in 2023–24. This supports the recently ratified Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW) central collective agreements, and a labour provision for other education worker unions.
- A 1.25 per cent increase for teacher salary benchmarks in the 2022–23 school year over the 2021–22 school year, with a further 1.25 per cent increase in the 2023–24 school year as a labour provision.
- As the principals' and vice-principals' terms and conditions of employment expire August 31, 2023, salary benchmarks for these staff remain unchanged in the 2023–24 school year from the 2022–23 school year.

Employee Life and Health Trust benefits funding amounts are being adjusted for CUPE and OCEW education workers for the 2022–23 school year (in-year) and 2023–24 school year as per their respective central collective agreements.

### **D. REALIGNMENT OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATION FUNDING**

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Allocation for each school board is based on multiplying the total funded First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies enrolment by a benchmark of \$645.64. Funded First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies enrolment is calculated per course in a school as follows and totaled to a school board level:

- Less than 8 students: Generates funded First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies enrolment of  $(\text{students} \div 8) \times 15$
- Greater than or equal to 8 eligible students and less than 23 students: Generates funded First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies enrolment of  $(23 - \text{students})$
- Greater than or equal to 23 students: is funded through the Pupil Foundation Grant only.

### **E. KEEPING UP WITH COSTS**

#### **Non-Staff Benchmarks**

The ministry is providing a 2 per cent cost update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e., electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs).

#### **Differentiated Funding for Online Learning**

The online learning and the in-person and remote learning credit load benchmarks are being updated for the third year of a multi-year trajectory. Reflecting the change in required online credits announced in Policy/Program Memorandum 167, the 2023–24 secondary benchmark

for classroom teacher staffing through the Secondary Pupil Foundation Allocation and related grants will use a funded average credit load of 7.5 credits per pupil split between online learning (approximately 0.225) and in-person and remote learning (approximately 7.275). The online learning credit load benchmark assumes approximately 22.5 per cent of secondary students will take one course online in 2023–24. These planning assumptions may be reviewed based on experience and policy objectives.

For the information and the review of the Trustees, we are enclosing the following information:

**APPENDIX A** 2023:B04 2023-24 Grants for Student Needs Funding

**APPENDIX B** 2023:B05 2023-24 Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF)

**APPENDIX C** 2023:B07 Capital Funding for the 2023-24 School Year

**APPENDIX D** 2023:B06 Student Transportation Grant

The 2023-2024 Grants for Student Needs Funding is presented for information.

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023

**Ministry of Education**

Education Labour and Finance  
Division

315 Front Street West  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Division des relations de travail et du  
financement en matière d'éducation

315, rue Front Ouest  
11<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8

**2023:B04**

**Date:** April 17, 2023

**Memorandum To:** Directors of Education  
Senior Business Officials  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Andrew Davis  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education Labour and Finance Division

**Subject:** **2023–24 Grants for Student Needs Funding**

---

I am writing to provide you with information about the Ministry of Education's Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding for the 2023–24 school year.

GSN funding is projected to be \$27.1 billion, while the average provincial per-pupil base funding<sup>1</sup> is projected to be \$13,125 in 2023–24. Base funding<sup>1</sup> has increased by \$693 million or 2.7 per cent compared to 2022-23. This additional investment in public education demonstrates the government's commitment to providing students with access to the skills and opportunities they need to succeed. There is a further \$516.2 million in Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF), bringing the total investment in public education to \$27.6 billion. The PPF funding is outlined in a separate memo.

This year's GSN includes targeted investments and adjustments for a range of initiatives, with highlights including student transportation funding model reform and related investments; summer learning supports; funding in support of the ongoing labour negotiations; Indigenous education priorities; and previous PPF investments continued through the GSN; new investments for the administration of remote learning and to support safe and clean schools; as well as other updates to support key priorities.

---

<sup>1</sup>Base funding excludes one-time funding and funding for debt service costs.

## **A. NEW FUNDING FORMULA FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

Starting in the 2023–24 school year, the ministry is implementing a new Student Transportation Grant funding framework that is transparent, equitable, and focused on reliability. The Student Transportation Grant is projected to be \$1,233.2 million in 2023-24 and is made up of the following three allocations:

- Transportation Services Allocation - \$1,225.8 million
- School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation - \$1.7 million
- Transportation to Provincial or Demonstration Schools Allocation - \$5.7 million

As this is the first year of a new funding formula, the grant includes a Transition amount to ensure that no school board experiences a decline in funding compared to their allocation from the 2022–23 school year. The Transition amount is expected to be in place for four years (through the 2026–27 school year) and will be updated annually to reflect changes in enrolment, new routing results, and changes to benchmarks.

The ministry will be introducing enhanced reporting requirements under the new Student Transportation Grant. These reporting requirements are intended to provide the ministry with greater insight into how school boards are using certain components. Additional information pertaining to these enhanced reporting requirements will be shared at a later date.

Additional details on the new Student Transportation Grant funding framework are provided in a separate memorandum, 2023:B06 – Student Transportation Grant – Grants for Student Needs 2023-24.

## **B. SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF REMOTE LEARNING AND THE PROMOTION OF SAFE AND CLEAN SCHOOLS**

### **Funding for Remote Learning Administration**

The ministry is providing a \$10.1 million investment in the School Foundation Grant to support remote learning administration. For students who wish to enroll in remote learning, school boards may offer remote learning instruction directly, they may partner with another school board to provide remote learning instruction on their behalf, or they may work with other school boards to deliver remote learning collaboratively.

Each school board with remote learning enrolment will generate funding to support the cost of the salaries and benefits of administrative staff (i.e., principal, vice-principal, school office support, information technology (IT)) based on a per-pupil amount as follows:

- Total remote learning elementary and secondary ADE x \$479.27.

Remote learning ADE is excluded from the ADE used in the In-School Administration Allocation, and other school-based/school facility-based allocations within the GSN. School boards will need to create a remote Board School ID (BSID) for each panel to track remote learning ADE.



## **Safe and Clean Schools Supplement**

The ministry is providing a \$19.9 million investment in the Learning Opportunities Grant for additional services that support student well-being and maintain clean schools.

In addition to existing funding available in the GSN, the Safe and Clean Schools Supplement is providing funding through the following amounts:

- Professional/Paraprofessional amount: \$11.9 million to support the salaries and benefits costs for staff such as psychologists, social workers and child/youth workers, to enhance additional direct services for students
- Educational Assistants amount: \$4.0 million to support the salaries and benefits costs for educational assistants to work with students who may require additional support
- Custodian/Maintenance amount: \$4.0 million to support the salaries and benefits costs for custodians to maintain clean schools

School boards are expected to use the funding for these purposes, with priority given to professional/paraprofessional staff to support the well-being of students; however, boards have flexibility within these categories.

Each school board's allocation within the Safe and Clean Schools Supplement is set out in the GSN regulation.

## **C. SUMMER LEARNING SUPPORTS**

### **Transfer of Summer Learning Program**

Funding of \$5.0 million for summer learning, previously provided through the Council of Ontario Directors of Education, is moving from PPF into the Learning Opportunities Grant. This funding supports literacy and numeracy programs for elementary students who would benefit from additional learning support over the summer months to mitigate the impacts of learning loss.

At the time of publishing this memorandum, this funding is included within the Learning Opportunities Grant but not in a specific allocation. Details of the allocation and funding methodology will be communicated separately.

### **55-Hour Summer School Credit Upgrading Courses**

The ministry is continuing to allow for the 55-hour credit upgrading summer course option that has been available since summer 2020 on an ongoing basis. This option enables students to review and consolidate the overall expectations of a course that they had previously passed during that school year to upgrade and/or refresh any gaps in their knowledge and/or improve their marks.

These upgrading courses will continue to be exempt from the 34-credit threshold.

## **First Nation Students Enrolled in the Summer**

The ministry is providing continued access to summer learning programming for First Nation students living on reserves in 2023-24 (i.e. summer 2024) at no cost to the First Nation. School boards should not charge tuition fees for these pupils and should report them as 'pupils of the board'.

## **D. LABOUR-RELATED CHANGES**

Updates to salary benchmarks and other funding elements are being made to reflect:

- A \$1 per hour increase in education worker salary benchmarks in the 2022–23 school year over the 2021–22 school year, with a further \$1 per hour increase in 2023–24. This supports the recently ratified Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW) central collective agreements, and a labour provision for other education worker unions.
- A 1.25 per cent increase for teacher salary benchmarks in the 2022–23 school year over the 2021–22 school year, with a further 1.25 per cent increase in the 2023–24 school year as a labour provision.
- As the principals' and vice-principals' terms and conditions of employment expire August 31, 2023, salary benchmarks for these staff remain unchanged in the 2023–24 school year from the 2022–23 school year.

Employee Life and Health Trust benefits funding amounts are being adjusted for CUPE and OCEW education workers for the 2022–23 school year (in-year) and 2023–24 school year as per their respective central collective agreements.

The ministry is continuing to provide the Supports for Students Fund (SSF) in the 2023–24 school year, also known as Investment in Systems Priorities in some former collective agreements, which provides flexible funding to school boards to support the learning needs of students. School boards should continue to use this funding for its intended purpose under respective collective agreements for appropriate employee groups, subject to ongoing labour discussions. Note that funds provided through the Adult Day School/Continuing Education Supplement of the Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant may be required for compensation or staffing under the SSF, depending on the collective agreements for some employee groups.

The portion of the SSF for education workers is being increased by 3.24 per cent for the 2022–23 school year (over the amounts announced in the 2022–23 GSN) with a further 3.17 per cent increase in the 2023–24 school year. This supports the CUPE and OCEW central collective agreements. For other education worker unions, the increased portion of the SSF over the amounts specified for the 2021–22 school year in respective collective agreements, is included through a labour provision.

Since agreements with all labour partners have yet to be reached, school boards are expected to set up a provision for expenses related to the labour provisions described above, subject to

the outcome and conclusion of negotiations. Further information on how to report this provision will be released as part of the SB-Memo on the 2023–24 Estimates Education Finance Information System (EFIS) forms.

## **E. REALIGNMENT OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATION FUNDING**

The ministry has reviewed the Indigenous Education Grant and is realigning funding to better support Indigenous education priorities. This realignment is reflected through changes to the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies and Board Action Plan allocations within the Indigenous Education Grant, and a one-time realignment mitigation fund.

### **First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Allocation**

The funding methodology for the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Allocation is being revised as part of a realignment within the Indigenous Education Grant. This revised methodology continues to enable and encourage school boards to offer First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies courses to support the learning of Indigenous histories, cultures and perspectives for all students across Ontario.

The combination of the Pupil Foundation Grant and the supplemental First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Allocation funding supports the cost of a teacher where there are at least eight students<sup>2</sup> in the course in the school<sup>3</sup>. Where enrolment is less than eight students, supplemental First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Allocation funding is pro-rated to support a portion of the cost of a teacher. Where enrolment for a First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies course in a school is at least 23 eligible students, funding to support the cost of a teacher is provided solely through the Pupil Foundation Grant.

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Allocation for each school board is based on multiplying the total funded First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies enrolment by a benchmark of \$645.64. Funded First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies enrolment is calculated per course in a school as follows and totalled to a school board level:

- Less than 8 students: Generates funded First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies enrolment of  $(\text{students} \div 8) \times 15$
- Greater than or equal to 8 eligible students and less than 23 students: Generates funded First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies enrolment of  $(23 - \text{students})$
- Greater than or equal to 23 students: is funded through the Pupil Foundation Grant only.

School boards continue to be required to deliver First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies courses in a school where a minimum of eight students in that school enroll in the course.

---

<sup>2</sup> Excludes adult and fully high-credit pupils.

<sup>3</sup> Schools in regard to the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies Allocation refers to the program definition of schools used to track enrolment in the ONSIS system, i.e., Board School ID (BSID) and includes schools consisting purely of remote learning students.

## **Realignment of Funding into the Board Action Plan (BAP) Allocation**

The funding methodology for the BAP Allocation is being revised as part of the realignment within the Indigenous Education Grant to better support Indigenous education priorities.

A new Supplemental amount includes two components:

- NHS-Based Per-Pupil Component: Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) x estimated National Household Survey (NHS) percentage of enrolment that is Indigenous x Per-Pupil Amount (PPA) weighting factor x \$129.19
- Board Total Per-Pupil Component: ADE x \$36.98

Engagement with Indigenous stakeholders and school boards will be held in the spring to determine the Indigenous Education provincial priorities that are to be supported through this new Supplemental amount. School boards are expected to set up a provision for expenses related to this Supplemental amount, subject to the outcome of this engagement. Details on the priorities will be shared with school boards by early June to support the submission of their 2023–24 budgets.

## **One-Time Realignment Mitigation Fund**

The ministry is providing \$17.1 million to partially mitigate the impacts of the realignment within the Indigenous Education Grant for school boards that are facing a net funding reduction in the 2023–24 school year relative to the 2022–23 school year due to the changes outlined above. This transitional funding can support existing programming (excluding expenses related to school board administration and governance), recognizing that it takes time for school boards to adjust their cost structures.

Each eligible school board's funding under the One-Time Realignment Mitigation Fund is set out in the GSN regulation.

## **F. OTHER PPF TRANSFERS TO GSN**

In addition to the Summer Learning Program transfer noted above, to further support the ministry's efforts to streamline funding while also reducing administrative burden for transfer payment recipients, the following PPF allocations are also being transferred into the GSN:

### **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Expansion**

Funding of \$13.2 million for Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs is moving from PPF into the existing SHSM Allocation. This additional funding supports program growth and provides students with access to more SHSM programs, including programs in skilled trades related sectors and other high demand industries in key labour market sectors.

### **Early Math Intervention for Students with Special Education Needs**

Funding of \$8.3 million, to support early math intervention for elementary students with special education needs, is moving from PPF into the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) Allocation as a new Early Math Intervention amount. This funding helps increase

student engagement, closes learning gaps and ensures students are prepared for the transition into a de-streamed Grade 9 curriculum. With this funding, school boards can continue to identify and consolidate instructional strategies and supports for students with special education needs to address gaps in mathematics achievement. Funding through this allocation includes a base amount of \$106,816.10 and a per-pupil amount of \$0.28.

### **Demographic Data Gathering**

Funding of \$2.5 million is moving from PPF into the School Board Administration and Governance Grant as a new Demographic Data Gathering Allocation to support school board capacity to collect, analyze, and use voluntary student and workforce demographic data. This capacity enables school boards to pinpoint and address disparities in student achievement as well as in employment practices, increasing accountability to their communities. Funding through this allocation is calculated as a base amount per school board of \$30,702.00 and a per-pupil amount of \$0.16.

Any additional reporting requirements outside of EFIS and OnSIS will be requested by the Education Equity Secretariat of the ministry through a provincial accountability tool.

## **G. EXPIRATION OF THE COVID-19 LEARNING RECOVERY FUND**

As directed in the memorandum [2022: B03 – 2022–23 Grants for Student Needs Funding](#), the temporary COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund is expiring at the end of 2022–23, as school board operations normalize following the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **H. KEEPING UP WITH COSTS, ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION, OTHER ADJUSTMENTS AND REMINDERS**

### **Non-Staff Benchmarks**

The ministry is providing a 2 per cent cost update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e., electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs).

### **Ventilation Supports**

The School Operations Allocation continues to provide funding support to optimize ventilation in schools, which is projected to be \$29.5 million.

### **Interim Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Funding Approach**

The Special Incidence Portion (SIP) allocation is intended to support students with extraordinarily high needs who require more than two full-time staff to address their health and/or safety needs, and those of others at their school. In the 2023–24 school year, the ministry is undertaking a review to modernize the SIP Allocation and temporarily adjusting the SIP funding approach by using a formula to calculate the amount for each school board. Accordingly, SIP funding for each school board for 2023–24 is allocated based on the school board's historical SIP funding amounts plus a growth rate applied.

This funding approach to SIP will relieve school boards of administrative work required in the claims submission process. A similar funding approach was employed during the 2020–21 and 2021–22 school years.

School boards should continue to use this funding to help cover the costs of staff support to ensure the health and/or safety of students who have extraordinarily high needs and of others at school.

Each school board's SIP Allocation amount is set out in the GSN regulation.

### **Regional Internal Audit Team Administration**

The West of Central Regional Internal Audit Team, previously administered by Waterloo Region District School Board, will now be administered by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

### **Differentiated Funding for Online Learning**

The online learning and the in-person and remote learning credit load benchmarks are being updated for the third year of a multi-year trajectory. Reflecting the change in required online credits announced in Policy/Program Memorandum 167, the 2023–24 secondary benchmark for classroom teacher staffing through the Secondary Pupil Foundation Allocation and related grants will use a funded average credit load of 7.5 credits per pupil split between online learning (approximately 0.225) and in-person and remote learning (approximately 7.275). The online learning credit load benchmark assumes approximately 22.5 per cent of secondary students will take one course online in 2023–24. These planning assumptions may be reviewed based on experience and policy objectives.

### **Retirement Gratuities**

This is the final year of a 12-year phase-out of the retirement gratuities resulting in a reduction in the benefits funding benchmarks. This 0.167 per cent reduction is applied to the benefits benchmarks in the foundation grants with equivalent adjustments to the benchmarks in the supplemental grants to reflect the reduction in benefits funding.

For school boards that provided one-time payouts of retirement gratuities in 2015–16, funding will continue to be recovered from school boards in 2023–24. This recovery, which began in 2016–17, will be over the estimated average remaining service life of school board employees eligible for retirement gratuities as of August 31, 2012. The funding recovered from school boards will be to the extent that school boards received funding from the ministry and to the extent that school boards reported a one-time gain in the early payout of retirement gratuities in 2015–16.

### **School Operations Allocation - Supplementary Area Factor**

This is the final year of the five-year phase-in of updates to the Supplementary Area Factor for base school facility operations within the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant to reflect a secondary class size of 23.

### **Accommodation Costs in School-Based Child Care Spaces**

As previously communicated through memorandum 2023:SB03, School-Level Data Verification for Child Care Centres Located in Schools, the Ministry of Education is developing a new sustainable child care funding model. As part of this process, the ministry is investigating options that would support the standardization of accommodation costs in school-based spaces, with rates set by the ministry, effective January 1, 2024. As such, school boards should plan conservatively for accommodation revenues until such time as the funding formula is finalized. The ministry intends to communicate these rates in summer 2023 through a future memorandum.

### **I. UKRAINIAN STUDENTS WITH A CANADA-UKRAINE AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY TRAVEL (CAUET) VISA**

The ministry is providing continued access to a publicly funded school at no cost to Ukrainian students with a CUAET visa. School boards should not charge tuition fees for these pupils and should report them as 'pupils of the board' for ministry funding purposes for the duration of their CUAET visa.

### **J. ENHANCED ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

#### **External Audit Capacity**

Funding of \$0.8 million is being provided through a new External Audit Allocation to enhance school boards' external auditors' capacity to support the following functions:

- Enhancing the ministry's enrolment audit accountability function
- Performing staffing Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) compliance audits to enhance accountability of the Benefits Trusts Allocation

The External Audit Allocation comprises two amounts:

- Enrolment Audit amount: supports the cost of an enrolment audit, based on a cyclical approach of approximately six school boards per year.
- Staffing FTE Audit amount: supports the costs of a staffing FTE compliance audit (i.e., Appendix H in EFIS) based on a cyclical approach of approximately 15 school boards per school year.

School board selection for enrolment and staffing FTE compliance audits and requirements/parameters are set out by the Financial Analysis & Accountability Branch of the ministry each school year, with further details to be communicated at a later date.

## **Balanced Budget Requirements Related to the Implementation of the Asset Retirement Obligations Accounting Standard**

The new accounting standard PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO) was effective as of April 1, 2022, and school boards are required to implement the standard in their 2022–23 school board fiscal year, effective September 1, 2022.

Upon implementation of the ARO standard, school boards will report an adjustment to their opening accumulated deficit in the 2022–23 school year as well as to the in-year amortization and accretion expense until the affected assets are fully amortized. School boards will be provided with funding to address the ARO liabilities when they carry out eligible projects to abate the hazard materials. As the revenue and expense are not recognized on the same basis, there will be an impact on school boards' in-year surplus/deficit. The ministry is amending Ontario Regulation 488/10: *Determination of Boards' Surplus and Deficits* to exclude ARO related revenue, expense, accumulated deficit and accumulated surplus from the in-year and accumulated deficit for balanced budget compliance purposes.

## **K. CONTINUED STABILIZATION FUNDING FOR DECREASES IN ENROLMENT**

The ministry recognizes that some school boards continue to see declines in enrolment and the GSN continues to provide a variety of measures that help stabilize funding.

- the \$21.1 million Declining Enrolment Allocation (DEA) provides school boards with transitional support recognizing that it takes time to adjust cost structures to reflect declines in enrolment. The DEA consists of a First-Year component which provides funding supports for school boards that experience year-over-year enrolment decline from the prior year, and a Second-Year component equal to 25 per cent of the prior year's First Year component.
- the \$30.1 million Recent Immigrant Supplement provides time-limited funding to support the out-year financial implications of the extraordinary and temporary decline in recent immigrant enrolment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - School boards generate top-up funding, where needed, if actual weighted enrolment falls below the level determined by the total weighted enrolment for each of the four years that generated funding through the English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) Allocation Recent Immigrant Component and the Programme d'appui aux nouveaux arrivants (PANA) Allocation in their 2019–20 Financial Statements.

## **L. CAPITAL**

Details of capital funding programs are provided in a separate memorandum, 2023:B07 – Capital Funding for the 2023-24 School Year.



## M. ISOLATE BOARD SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

As in previous years, funding for isolate board school authorities will be adjusted, as appropriate, to reflect changes in funding to district school boards. As such, funding for isolate board school authorities may include adjustments to some of the items presented in this memorandum. The ministry will provide further information to isolate board school authorities through an updated Addendum to the 2023–24 Technical Paper for Isolate Board School Authorities in the coming months.

## N. REPORTING

### Dates for Submission of Financial Reports

The ministry has established the following dates for submission of financial reports:

Date	Description
June 30, 2023	School Board Estimates for 2023–24
November 15, 2023	School Board Financial Statements for 2022–23
December 15, 2023	School Board Revised Estimates for 2023–24
May 15, 2024	School Board Financial Report for September 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

### Rural and Northern Education Funding (RNEF) – Schools List

By June 30, 2023, school boards must submit to the ministry the list of all the additional schools, approved by board of trustees' motion, to be eligible to spend the RNEF Allocation on these specific schools. Please submit these motions along with the list of these additional schools to [EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca](mailto:EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca) including the school name, School Facilities Inventory System (SFIS) number, Campus ID, Board School Identification number (BSID) and panel (elementary/secondary). **Please include "RNEF" in the subject line of your email.**

## O. INFORMATION RESOURCES

If you require further information, please contact:

Subject	Contact	Email
Broadband	Philippe Madore	<a href="mailto:Philippe.Madore@ontario.ca">Philippe.Madore@ontario.ca</a>
Capital Policies and Renewal	Andrea Dutton	<a href="mailto:Andrea.Dutton@ontario.ca">Andrea.Dutton@ontario.ca</a>
Capital Priorities, Child Care Capital, Site Acquisition and Project Accountability	Paul Bloye	<a href="mailto:Paul.Bloye@ontario.ca">Paul.Bloye@ontario.ca</a>

Central Labour Agreements	Matthew Beattie Heather Diggle	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Beattie@ontario.ca">Matthew.Beattie@ontario.ca</a> <a href="mailto:Heather.Diggle@ontario.ca">Heather.Diggle@ontario.ca</a>
Curriculum and Assessment Implementation and Additional Educational Software Licensing	Mishaal Surti	<a href="mailto:Mishaal.Surti@ontario.ca">Mishaal.Surti@ontario.ca</a>
Executive Compensation	Patrizia Del Riccio	<a href="mailto:Patrizia.DelRiccio@ontario.ca">Patrizia.DelRiccio@ontario.ca</a>
Field Services (including French as a second language, international education, and regional offices)	Andrew Locker	<a href="mailto:Andrew.Locker@ontario.ca">Andrew.Locker@ontario.ca</a>
Financial Accountability, Reporting Requirements, External and Regional Internal Audit	Med Ahmadoun	<a href="mailto:Med.Ahmadoun@ontario.ca">Med.Ahmadoun@ontario.ca</a>
French-language Education	Roxanne Hotte	<a href="mailto:Roxanne.Hotte@ontario.ca">Roxanne.Hotte@ontario.ca</a>
Indigenous Education	Renita Deonarain	<a href="mailto:Renita.Deonarain@ontario.ca">Renita.Deonarain@ontario.ca</a>
Online Learning	Laurie McNelles	<a href="mailto:Laurie.McNelles2@ontario.ca">Laurie.McNelles2@ontario.ca</a>
Operating Funding Modelling (including Benefits Trusts funding model)	Xiaofei Wang	<a href="mailto:Xiaofei.Wang@ontario.ca">Xiaofei.Wang@ontario.ca</a>
Operating Funding Policy (including Benefits Trusts policy)	Romina Di Pasquale	<a href="mailto:Romina.DiPasquale@ontario.ca">Romina.DiPasquale@ontario.ca</a>
Professionalism, Teaching Policy and Standards	Anshoo Kamal	<a href="mailto:Anshoo.Kamal@ontario.ca">Anshoo.Kamal@ontario.ca</a>
Special Education	Claudine Munroe	<a href="mailto:Claudine.Munroe@ontario.ca">Claudine.Munroe@ontario.ca</a>
Student Achievement	Dianne Oliphant	<a href="mailto:Dianne.Oliphant@ontario.ca">Dianne.Oliphant@ontario.ca</a>
Student Mental Health	Claudine Munroe	<a href="mailto:Claudine.Munroe@ontario.ca">Claudine.Munroe@ontario.ca</a>
Student Transportation	Mehul Mehta	<a href="mailto:Mehul.Mehta@ontario.ca">Mehul.Mehta@ontario.ca</a>
Student Well-Being and Parent Engagement	Suzanne Gordon	<a href="mailto:Suzanne.Gordon@ontario.ca">Suzanne.Gordon@ontario.ca</a>

General questions regarding the GSN release can be emailed to: [EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca](mailto:EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca).

## P. OTHER GSN MATERIALS

For further information, please see the 2023–24 Education Funding Technical Paper and GSN Projections for the 2023–24 School Year, which are available on the [Education Funding webpage](#).

## **Q. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Some of the elements and proposals set out in this memo can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Minister of Education or Lieutenant Governor in Council under the *Education Act* or other legislation as required. Such regulations have not yet been made. Therefore, the content of this memo should be considered subject to such regulations, if and when made.

In closing, the ministry would like to thank you and acknowledge the ongoing and extraordinary work of school board teams to support students, families and the broader community, especially while navigating the unique challenges of recent years. We remain committed to working closely with you to facilitate the next school year, with the best interest of Ontario's students in mind.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Andrew Davis  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education Labour and Finance Division

**Ministry of Education****Ministère de l'Éducation**

Corporate Management and Services  
Division  
315 Front Street West  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Division de la gestion et des services  
ministériels  
315, rue Front Ouest  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8

**2023: B05**

**Date:** April 17, 2023

**Memorandum To:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Louis Dimitracopoulos  
Chief Administrative Officer & Assistant Deputy Minister  
Corporate Management and Services Division

**Subject:** **2023-24 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF)**

I am writing to provide you with information about the Ministry of Education's Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) for the 2023-24 school year. These commitments are being released in conjunction with the 2023-24 Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

This year's PPF investments focus on learning and well-being to support students for success now and in the future. We are pleased to provide PPF investments for programs that have the greatest impact in the classroom and on students. The PPF is supplemental to the GSN and provides time-limited funding which is reviewed and assessed by the ministry each year.

**2023-24 PPF ALLOCATIONS**

In 2023-24, the PPF will provide \$516.22 million in funding to education partners.

To facilitate school boards' budget planning for the 2023-24 school year, the ministry is confirming approximately \$372.2 million of PPF to school boards and isolate school authorities to support ministry priorities.

**TRANSFERS TO GSN FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR**

To further support the ministry's efforts to streamline funding while also reducing administrative burden for transfer payment recipients, some existing PPF allocations have been transferred into the GSN beginning in 2023-24. Additional details regarding these allocations can be found in the 2023-24 GSN B memo:

1. Demographic Data Gathering – \$2.50 million
2. Early Intervention Math Supports for Students with Special Education Needs (Grades K-8) – \$5.21 million

3. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Expansion – \$13.20 million
4. Summer Learning Programs (SLP) – \$5.00 million

## PPF PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS

PPF priority themes are outlined in the following table, with further program details below:

Key Priority	Objective	Amount
French-Language Education	To provide tailored supports, to students in Ontario’s French-Language Education (FLE) system guided by the <i>Aménagement linguistique policy</i> .	\$21.90M
Indigenous Education	To support the academic success and well-being of Indigenous students, as well as build the knowledge of all students and educators on Indigenous histories, cultures, perspectives and contributions.	\$6.90M
Math	To support students in meeting provincial math standards.	\$65.80M
Mental Health and Well-Being	To support the critical linkage between mental health and well-being and student success. Also provides students with physical health and safety supports.	\$20.05M
Special Education	To improve support for children and youth with special education needs and their families and educators.	\$28.98M
Student Pathways	To support students throughout secondary school and as they transition to postsecondary destinations, including apprenticeship, community living, college, university, and the workplace.	\$7.22M
Supporting Student Potential	<i>De-streaming</i> To provide supports for students to be successful in de-streamed learning environments.	\$103.69M
	<i>Reading</i> To ensure that all young learners receive the necessary foundational skills and early interventions in reading that are critical to future success.	\$90.00M
	<i>Additional Investments</i> To support vulnerable students, including youth at risk, to stay in school, graduate and succeed.	\$26.61M
System Support and Efficiencies	To provide support to help ensure that the education system is running efficiently and effectively, including labour-related commitments, administrative efficiencies, and teacher professional learning.	\$1.00M

Descriptions of the initiatives under these PPF themes are below. Where available at this time, school board allocations are provided in Appendix A. Other board allocations will be confirmed at a later date.

### French-Language Education

In addition to a French-language allocation in all Key Priority areas, \$21.9M in French-language targeted investments will include support for the Consortium d’apprentissage virtuel de l’Ontario (CAVLFO) as well as the development modernization and maintenance of online learning courses, the development of a French-language reading intervention program and providing writing resources to French-language students and school board staff. The funding also includes culturally, linguistically and pedagogically relevant supports. These initiatives are

aggregated and not detailed in the board-by-board index.

## **Indigenous Education**

### *Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) (\$0.28M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

AYEP gives Grade 11 and 12 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students in identified school boards an opportunity to earn two senior business studies credits through a program based on the Ontario Business Studies curriculum and supplemented by Indigenous content, hands-on activities, guest speakers, business mentors, and funding opportunities. Students develop entrepreneurial skills and learn how to create and establish their own small business.

### *First Nation School Support Program (\$0.21M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Through a partnership between Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), the First Nation School Support Program focuses on coaching and mentoring to support principal leadership development. KPDSB second a principal to support the capacity development of educators and administrators in partnering First Nation-operated schools to support First Nation students' success and well-being as they transition from remote and fly-in communities, as young as age 12, into the provincially funded education system.

### *Indigenous Graduation Coach Program (\$4.81M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

The Indigenous Graduation Coach Program provides funding to targeted district school boards for the recruitment of Indigenous Graduation Coaches to support Indigenous students in obtaining an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and successfully transition from First Nation/federally operated schools into the provincially funded education system and/or into post-secondary education, training, or labour market opportunities.

### *Rapid Response Northern Schools Team (\$1.60M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

The Rapid Response Northern Schools Team (RRNST) is a trained, trauma-informed team comprised of board-employed, certified educators, administrators, and related positions (e.g., Elders) to respond to urgent requests made by remote First Nation communities experiencing an emergency situation. The RRNST can be mobilized and deployed quickly upon the request of a First Nation to keep classrooms and schools open in remote First Nation communities and support the academic success and well-being of students.

## **Math**

### *Math Recovery Plan: Board Math Leads (\$13.50M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

School boards will be provided funding to hire a Board Math Lead who will inform, monitor and provide timely reporting of progress towards math achievement and improvement targets and lead board-wide actions to meet these targets. This position will also be responsible for: attending ministry learning and networking sessions; ensuring fidelity to the Ontario curriculum; and supporting the consistent and intentional implementation of high-impact instructional practices. Board Math Leads will also develop parent math resources and facilitate job-embedded educator professional learning opportunities in math.

This position must be at a Supervisory Officer level unless an exemption is requested by the school board in writing to the Student Achievement Division of the ministry and a decision is made by the ministry based on the information provided. Board Math Leads should have demonstrated system leadership and specialized expertise in math where possible (e.g., hold specialist qualifications in math, facilitating and/or writing additional

qualification courses in math). Board Math Leads should also have experience in instructional coaching, building educator and administrator capacity in mathematics teaching, and designing and monitoring school and board learning.

For each Board Math Lead, the school board will generate funding of 1.0 of an FTE (0.5 FTE for school authorities). The funding benchmark per FTE is \$166,635.88. School boards with a Total ADE greater than 100,000 will generate 2.0 FTE.

*Math Recovery Plan: School Math Facilitators (\$33.30M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

School boards will be provided with funding to hire School Math Facilitators to work in Grades 3, 6 and 9 classrooms in priority schools. These positions are intended to work directly with students who require additional support as well as work with teachers, often directly in classrooms to strengthen math teacher knowledge and support consistent and intentional implementation of high-impact instructional practices and early intervention strategies.

School boards should hire teachers who have specialized expertise and qualifications in math. School Math Facilitators should also have experience teaching math in multiple grades, working with teachers on monitoring progress towards improvement targets and using high-impact instructional practices and early intervention strategies. They should have thorough knowledge of the new math curriculum. The ministry will provide further details to school boards on their identified priority schools in a future communication, as well as expectations for School Math Facilitators in their work with priority schools and classrooms.

For each priority school, the school board will generate funding of 0.2 of an FTE. The funding benchmark per FTE is \$105,000.00.

*Math Recovery Plan: Digital Math Tools (\$15.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

School boards will provide digital math tools for all students in Grades 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 to support student learning at home and in classrooms. The digital math tools must be available in English and French, align with the Ontario curriculum, include reporting for parents and educators to monitor student achievement and be adaptive and responsive. School boards are encouraged to procure digital math tools listed on the [OECD](#) digital math tool vendor of record.

*Math Recovery Plan: Additional Qualifications (\$4.00M)*

School boards are invited to submit an [application](#) by June 30, 2023 to subsidize teachers who have completed Additional Qualifications (AQ) courses in math. Each subsidy is to be provided at \$650 for educators who will have completed eligible courses between September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024.

## **Mental Health and Well-Being**

*Summer Mental Health Supports (\$12.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

To support transition into the 2023-24 school year, funding of \$12M will be provided to school boards for the summer of 2023. The Ministry intends to provide funding of \$14M for the summer of 2024. This funding will provide prevention/early intervention mental health services to students during the summer months using their existing staffing complement. This funding is intended to ensure the continuity of mental health supports for students with mental health concerns and those in crisis and cannot be used to increase the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) of mental health professionals. School boards can use a portion of this funding towards developing an integrated, prioritized referral pathway between schools and local community sector agencies, *2023-24 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) Memorandum 2023:B05*

creating a streamlined path to treatment.

*Concussion Summit (\$0.05M) – School board allocation in Appendix A*

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), in collaboration with world-renowned concussion specialists, hosts an Annual International Concussion Summit in the spring of each year. DSBN partners with industry leaders and other local and provincial organizations to provide the latest concussion information from expert speakers.

*Health Resources, Training and Supports (\$1.30M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

This funding is used to purchase and/or develop new resources and supports, and to deliver local training to principals/vice-principals, educators and other school staff related to current and emerging health and safety issues. In past years, this has included supports connected to cannabis use, vaping, gaming, nutrition and anti-sex trafficking. For school year 2023-24, school boards are encouraged to use funds to support student safety initiatives and positive behavioural supports to prevent bullying and violence and increase students' emotional regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills.

*Physical Activity Through Cricket (\$0.20M)*

Application-based funding to encourage a maximum number of students to learn, try, practice and compete in cricket through the school setting. With the rapid increase in participation and popularity of cricket in the province, it is important to provide quality opportunities for youth to learn about cricket and be involved in organized sport. The goal of this program is for representation across all genders, including providing a supportive environment for girls to participate in physical activity.

*School Mental Health Ontario (SMH-ON) (\$6.50M) – School board allocation in Appendix A*

As part of the government's commitment to build a comprehensive and connected multi-year mental health and addictions system across the lifespan, funding for School Mental Health Ontario (SMH-ON) will continue. SMH-ON will receive \$6.5 million in 2023-24 to provide implementation support to all 72 district school boards through clinical expertise, evidence-based resources/practical tools for educators, the delivery of consistent professional learning to school-based mental health clinicians and cross-sectoral work with partners in other sectors to ensure alignment with the broader provincial system of mental health services.

## **Special Education**

*Developmental Disabilities Pilot: Student Transitions (\$0.48M)*

Funding to support select school boards to explore and implement successful practices in transitioning students with developmental disabilities to work through an intensive job-placement program. To apply for this funding, please use the following link: [Developmental Disabilities Pilot: Student Transitions](#). Only applications submitted online by May 29, 2023, will be considered for funding.

*Professional Assessments (\$11.50M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

This program will support school boards to conduct professional assessments (e.g., speech and language, psycho-educational) to help reduce wait times. It will also address learning recovery following COVID-19-related learning disruption. This program supports recommendations made in the OHRC Right to Read report, the K-12 Standards Development Committee report, and the Auditor General report (2017).

*Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities (\$6.00M)*

School boards are invited to submit applications to fund projects that prevent and remove accessibility barriers experienced by students with special education needs / disabilities. To apply for this funding, please use the

*2023-24 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) Memorandum 2023:B05*



following link: [Application for Supporting Students with Disabilities](#). For your convenience, you can request an offline copy of this application by emailing [successforall@ontario.ca](mailto:successforall@ontario.ca). Only applications submitted online by May 29, 2023, will be considered for funding.

*Special Education Additional Qualification (AQ) Subsidy for Educators (\$1.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Funding will support educators' participation in approved Schedule C and Schedule D special education Additional Qualification (AQ) courses such as "D-Special Education Specialist".

*Summer Learning for Students with Special Education Needs (\$10.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*  
To support the transition of students with special education needs as they start the 2023-24 school year, funding of \$10M will be provided to school boards for the summer of 2023. The Ministry intends to provide funding of \$10M for the summer of 2024. This funding will provide transition programs and additional staffing for students with special education needs over the summer months.

## **Student Pathways**

*Entrepreneurship Education Pilot Projects (\$1.78M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

New this year, the ministry is expanding the Entrepreneurship education pilot projects to include opportunities for students in Grades 7 and 8. This funding for school boards is to provide entrepreneurship education for Grades 7-12 students developed/provided in partnership with local third-party organizations that have expertise in entrepreneurship, for example, local Chambers of Commerce. Projects related to STEM and/or the skilled trades are encouraged, and 50 per cent of funding must be dedicated to providing students' seed funding for their entrepreneurial projects/ideas. Board-level, local and regional events are encouraged to promote students' development of entrepreneurial skills. This project will culminate in a provincial showcase event in Spring 2024. This year will be the second of three years of funding.

*Experiential Professional Learning in the Skilled Trades for Guidance Teacher-Counsellors (\$3.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

This funding for school boards is to coordinate and provide experiential professional learning opportunities for all guidance teacher-counsellors to develop an enhanced understanding of the skilled trades and apprenticeship pathway and the benefits of the skilled trades as a career. The professional learning activities should be experiential in nature, a minimum of a half-day throughout the school year and developed/provided in partnership with local skilled trades employers and organizations. This year will be the second of three years of funding.

*Learn and Work Bursary Program (\$0.44M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

The Learn and Work Bursary Program provides \$1,000 bursaries to students, including adult learners, who may be facing barriers to success, who are enrolled in a cooperative education program and have financial and other barriers to completing the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

*Recognition of Experiential Learning Credit (RELC) Pilot (\$1.00M)*

The 2023-24 school year will be the second year of the three-year pilot for RELC. This program will allow students to earn a credit towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma for valuable learning that takes place outside of the school day with community partners or organizations. The ministry will be collecting data from participating school boards on implementation of RELC to inform subsequent years of the pilot and assess the feasibility of potential province-wide implementation.

*Skilled Trades Bursary Program (\$1.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

The Skilled Trades Bursary Program provide \$1,000 bursaries to students, including adult learners, who will have earned or are earning two credits in a cooperative education program working in a skilled trades placement, have plans to pursue a post-secondary skilled trades pathway and have financial and other barriers to completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

**Supporting Student Potential**

**Supporting Student Potential – De-Streaming**

*De-Streaming Implementation Supports Program (\$3.69M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

This is a continuation of funding to support the implementation of de-streamed Grade 9. The focus of this funding is to support Grade 8 students in their transition to a de-streamed Grade 9 program, support Grade 9 students to be successful in the de-streamed Grade 9 classroom, and in preparation for Grade 10 and their senior program. Funding can be used for: targeted supports for students in Grade 7, 8 and 9; enhancing culturally-responsive planning, instruction, assessment and evaluation practices; planning for First Nations students who are transitioning/have transitioned from federally-operated/First Nations schools and Inuit students who may be transitioning/have transitioned from communities in the far north to provincially-funded secondary schools; and student and family information sessions and workshops on school pathways and the de-streamed Grade 9 program.

*Staffing to Support De-Streaming and Transition to High School (\$100.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Funding for additional teachers in Grades 7-10 to work directly with students to provide early supports to prepare students in Grades 7 and 8 prior to transitioning into a de-streamed Grade 9 and to continue to support students in a de-streamed Grade 9 and their transition to Grade 10. School boards were allocated an amount equal to the projected funded teacher salary and benefits provided in through the GSN per 1.0 FTE based on the per-pupil benchmark and their projected enrolment.

**Supporting Student Potential – Reading**

*Early Reading Enhancements: Reading Screening Tools (\$12.50M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

In response to the Ontario Human Rights Commission’s Right to Read report, the government has committed that beginning in 2023-24, students in year 2 of Kindergarten to Grade 2 will be screened for reading using evidence-based tools. This new funding will allow school boards to procure ministry-approved early reading screening tools for educators to conduct this screening. The tools will help ensure students who require further supports in reading are identified early and supported within the classroom. More information regarding ministry-approved screening tools will become available. Boards are asked to hold expenditures until more information has been shared.

*Licenses for Reading Intervention Supports (\$12.50M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

This funding is intended to enable school boards to purchase licenses, resources and professional learning to support the provision of systematic, evidence-based reading interventions, supports or programs for struggling readers, including but not limited to students with reading disabilities.

*Education Staff to Support Reading Interventions (\$65.00M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

2023-24 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) Memorandum 2023:B05

School boards will receive new funding to hire teachers who can work one-on-one or in small groups with students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 who would benefit from more support in reading. These supports may include providing direct Tier 2 and Tier 3 reading interventions and other supports required by the school or board on reading and literacy-related initiatives.

Teachers hired in these positions should have specialized expertise in scientific, evidence-based literacy instruction that emphasizes foundational knowledge and skills, as well as training in providing direct Tier 2 and Tier 3 reading interventions. Teachers should have awareness and experience of assessments that inform instruction based on intensity, duration and frequency of skill required and expertise in a comprehensive approach to literacy instruction.

Each school board will generate funding of \$105,000.00 for at least 1.0 FTE teacher per board (0.5 FTE for school authorities), with additional teachers based on Kindergarten to Grade 3 student enrollment.

### **Supporting Student Potential – Additional Investments**

#### *Cooperative Education Supports for Students with Disabilities (\$2.07M)*

The Cooperative Education Supports for Students with Disabilities Pilot will allow participating school boards to provide targeted supports to students with disabilities to pursue cooperative education credits within a variety of placement opportunities, including those related to technological education and the skilled trades. The focus of this pilot is to help set up students with disabilities with the skills required for success after graduation. This year will be the first of three years of funding. Funding allocations for identified boards will follow.

#### *Focus on Youth (FOY) (\$10.00M)*

The Focus on Youth program provides learning and employment opportunities for youth in select low-income neighbourhoods who face challenges that hinder their learning, achievement and full participation in school, and barriers to employment due to circumstances directly linked to systemic inequality, racism and discrimination and their lived experiences of socio-economic disadvantage. Participating school boards collaborate with community organizations to deliver initiatives aimed at promoting engagement by offering youth employment/leadership opportunities and providing access to free/low-cost pro-social programming for younger students in their communities where such opportunities are limited.

#### *Graduation Coach Program for Black Students (\$4.70M)*

This funding is focused on addressing systemic barriers to achievement and well-being and supporting the success of Black students. The program involves providing intensive, culturally-responsive support to Black students by hiring graduation coaches with lived experience and connections to Black communities to provide direct support and mentorship to Black students. Coaches also provide advice to school boards and school leadership to inform system change and create inclusive spaces that are helping to dismantle systemic barriers, eliminate disparities, and close the achievement gap for Black students.

#### *Human Rights and Equity Advisors (\$3.242M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Funding for select school boards to employ Human Rights and Equity Advisors (HREAs) who work with the Director of Education and with the board's senior team to foster a culture of respect for human rights and equity, help identify and address systemic human rights and equity issues and increase the board's compliance with human rights law.

#### *Transportation and Stability Supports for Children and Youth in Care (\$6.60M)*

*2023-24 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) Memorandum 2023:B05*

This funding is intended to improve the educational experience and outcomes of children and youth in care by ensuring positive and stable connections to school, school supports and learning opportunities during times of instability and transition. The program promotes mental health, well-being and positive educational experiences by providing transportation and stability supports such as tutoring services, technology, cultural resources and professional assessments to support a stable school experience and ensure that the unique identities of children and youth in care are supported by community and cultural connections, positive relationships with peers and caring adults at their school.

### **System Support and Efficiencies**

#### *New Teacher Induction Program - Enhancing Teacher Development Fund (NTIP-ETD) (\$1.00M)*

The NTIP-ETD supplements the GSN funding formula by providing funded support for boards who experience a significant increase in the number of new permanent hires from the previous year and/or have new hires past Year 2 on the Teacher Qualifications and Experience Grid. Boards apply to the ministry for funding if either of these categories impact their ability to support the development of their new teachers. For some boards, this funding is critical to the delivery of NTIP as these new teachers must be supported and are required to successfully complete two teacher performance appraisals.

### **TRANSFER PAYMENT ADMINISTRATION**

In the 2023-24 school year, contract administration and reporting will continue to be done through Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON), the centralized digital system for government transfer payments.

To access PPF TPAs and reporting templates, school board staff must have registered accounts on the TPON system. Details and training materials on how to register and use TPON can be found online through the TPON provincial website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-funding-ontario-government>

For questions about PPF multi-project TPAs, please contact [edu-ppf-fpp@ontario.ca](mailto:edu-ppf-fpp@ontario.ca). For technical inquiries related to TPON, please contact [TPONCC@ontario.ca](mailto:TPONCC@ontario.ca).

### **UNDERSPENDING OF 2022-23 PPF FUNDS**

All PPF funds should be spent for the original purpose intended and articulated in signed transfer payment agreements. Unspent funds from 2022-23 PPF must be recovered by the ministry and will not be available for repurposing or carrying forward.

### **NEXT STEPS**

If you require further information about 2023-24 PPF initiatives, please contact your ministry program contacts or the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the program.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership to support these important investments. We remain committed to working closely with all school boards in the 2023-24 school year, with the best interest of Ontario's students in mind.

Electronically signed by

*2023-24 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) Memorandum 2023:B05*

Louis Dimitracopoulos  
Chief Administrative Officer & Assistant Deputy Minister  
Corporate Management and Services Division

## **ATTACHMENT**

### Appendix A – School Board Funding Allocations

- c: Superintendents of Business and Finance
  - Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario(ACÉPO)
  - Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
  - Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
  - Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
  - Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
  - Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
  - General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
  - General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
  - General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
  - Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
  - Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
  - Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
  - Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
  - Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
  - Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)

**Ministry of Education****Ministère de l'Éducation**Capital and Business Support  
DivisionDivision du soutien aux  
immobilisations et aux affaires315 Front Street West  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8315, rue Front Ouest  
15<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8**2023:B07****Date:** April 17, 2023**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education  
Senior Business Officials  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities**From:** Didem Proulx  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Education  
Capital and Business Support Division**Subject** Capital Funding for the 2023-24 School Year

---

The Ministry of Education recognizes the importance of working together with its partners, including school boards, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Infrastructure Ontario, to meet the government's commitment to helping build modern schools faster to support the needs of growing communities, to better utilize school capacity, and ensure value for taxpayer dollars.

To support this work, the ministry has a number of capital initiatives underway which demonstrate the government's commitment to ensuring that school board capital assets are used effectively and efficiently across the province. Accordingly, and as a follow-up to memorandum 2023:B04, 2023-24 Grants for Student Needs Funding (GSN), this memo provides details related to 2023-24 school year capital funding and application-based programs and policies:

1. School Condition Assessment Program
2. Funding for School Renewal
3. School Operations Allocation
4. Capital Planning Capacity
5. Land Priorities and Site Acquisition

6. Temporary Accommodation Allocation
7. Education Capital Information System
8. New Capital Resource

In addition, thank you for your time and efforts over the past several months in contributing to the various working groups, and data collection requests. The ministry is looking forward to continued collaboration with the sector on how to better deliver schools to meet community needs, where and when they need them. To support this work, the ministry is sharing a reminder that school boards and planning authorities are expected to collaborate to facilitate early and integrated planning for schools and associated child care facilities to meet current and future needs.

Further updates on these initiatives will be shared as they become available, including the next round of the Capital Priorities Program.

## **1. School Condition Assessment Program**

The ministry is pleased to announce the relaunch of the School Condition Assessment Program (SCAP). The next assessment cycle will commence this year and be over a five-year period, with approximately 900 facilities assessed per year. The assessments will be conducted by VFA Canada Corporation (“VFA”) and the ministry will continue to leverage the VFA Facility database.

While many aspects of the SCAP will remain the same, as under the previous program, the ministry has incorporated school board input into the new program to enhance overall program effectiveness and responsiveness. These enhancements will aid school boards in their abilities to manage their capital portfolio and monitor the efficacy of their investments. As we work towards relaunching this program, the ministry continues to work with volunteer boards to finalize key aspects of the program.

See Appendix A for additional details on the relaunch of this important initiative.

## **2. Funding for School Renewal**

The ministry is committed to supporting healthy and safe learning environments. For the 2023- 24 school year, the ministry will be investing an additional \$1.4 billion through the following two programs.

- School Condition Improvement at \$1,070 million; and
- School Renewal Allocation projected to be about \$375 million.

This investment is in addition to approximately \$656.5 million in combined federal-provincial funding provided under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

### **School Condition Improvement (SCI)**

School Condition Improvement is a capital renewal program that allows school boards to revitalize and renew aged building components that have exceeded or will exceed their useful life cycle. Items eligible for SCI funding are identified through the ministry’s School Facility Condition Assessment Program. Projects must support the overall objective of addressing facility renewal needs (either assessed needs or on a proactive basis).

For the 2023-24 school year, the ministry will allocate \$1,070 million to school boards through this program. As in prior years, 2023-24 SCI funding has been allocated in proportion to a school board’s total assessed five-year renewal needs (relative to the provincial total) and reflects assessment results from 2020. Only school facilities (school board owned or capital lease) that were open and operating in the 2022-23 school year are considered for funding.

The ministry would like to remind school boards of the appropriate use of SCI funds. School boards are required to direct 70 per cent of their SCI funds to address major building



components (e.g., foundations, roofs, windows) and systems (e.g., plumbing and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning). The remaining 30 per cent of SCI funding can continue to address the above listed building components or, alternatively, building interiors and surrounding site components (e.g., utilities, parking, and pavements).

Unspent funds in any given school year will be carried forward to the next school year and continue to follow the “70/30” rule. School boards are also reminded that all SCI-funded expenditures must be depreciable in nature and must be reported in the ministry’s renewal database. Payments will be made twice a year based on reported expenditures.

Please see Appendix B for individual school board SCI allocations.

### **School Renewal Allocation (SRA)**

The School Renewal Allocation is a multi-faceted program. It allows school boards to revitalize and renew aged building systems and components. This includes roof replacement and replacing of aged HVAC systems. SRA funding also allows school boards to undertake capital improvements (e.g., add new ventilation systems to increase fresh air intake, address program-related needs and invest in accessibility-related enhancements such as ramps, elevators, electronic door opening systems). In addition, SRA also allows school boards to address maintenance requirements such as painting, roof patching and pavement/parking repairs.

While school boards are provided the above flexibility under SRA, the ministry encourages school boards to prioritize SRA expenditures to address facility condition, ventilation, health and safety, general code requirements and accessibility.

For the 2023-24 school year, the ministry is projecting the funding allocation to be approximately \$375 million.

Please see Appendix B for individual school board SRA allocations.

### **Renewal Funding Time Limits**

As significant annual investments are made to renew and improve schools, it is important that on the ground improvement are realized in a timely manner.

In prior years, school boards have been able to carry over their previous year allocations without restrictions. As of the 23-24 school year, all new SCI and SRA allocations will expire in approximately 2.5 years with your 23-24 school year funds expiring March 31, 2026. All existing SCI and SRA funds available from prior school years will expire March 31, 2027.

Consideration will be provided for committed funds. Additional details to be provided in a follow-up memo.

## Renewal Accountability

The ministry expects that school boards will spend their renewal funds on schools that need to remain open and operating. For schools that are scheduled to be closed or are under consideration for closure, renewal funds should only be used to address renewal needs that could compromise the continuing operation of these schools in the short term (including any health and safety considerations). Renewal funds cannot be spent on administrative or operations buildings, on a community hub or to increase the gross floor area of a school facility. For additions, alterations or improvements to a school building acquired under a lease, school boards are required to seek the minister's approval.

Please see Appendix C for summary guidelines of eligible expenditures under the SCI and SRA programs.

Note: The use of renewal funds is subject to audit. The ministry may follow up on reported expenditures. Failure to provide details when requested could result in the ministry either having to recover or withhold funds.

### 3. School Operations Allocation

The School Operations Allocation allows school boards to address the cost of operating school facilities (e.g., heating, lighting, maintaining, cleaning). For the 2023-24 school year, funding under this allocation is projected to be approximately \$2.3 billion.

Updates for the 2023-24 school year include:

- A 2 per cent cost update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e., electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs);
- The ministry continues to allocate funding to support the increased costs related to optimizing ventilation in schools, which includes running ventilation systems longer, installing higher grade filters where possible, and replacing filters more frequently. This funding is embedded within the allocation and is estimated to be about \$29.5M for the school year. The funding was previously provided as temporary PPF funding to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ministry will continue with the fifth year of the 5-year phase-in of the Supplementary Area Factors (SAF), for both elementary and secondary, started in the 2019-20 school year (20 per cent per year).
  - Revisions to the board-specific elementary and secondary Supplementary Area Factors (SAFs) align with proposed changes of secondary class loadings of 23.
  - Changes only apply to base school operations.

See Appendix D for SAFs based on the proposed changes to secondary class size.

## **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)**

### COVID 19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS)

- Construction start for all outstanding COVID-19 resilience infrastructure stream projects must occur by September 30th, 2023. If construction does not start by this date, the project will be considered cancelled. All non-rural projects must be completed by December 31, 2023, while projects deemed rural must be completed by December 31, 2024.

### ICIP-Ventilation

- As a follow up to memorandum 2022:B12, please note that the deadline to complete projects under this program has been extended to December 31, 2023.
- As a reminder, all ICIP-Ventilation expenditures must be reported in VFA.facility and, as the program is 80% federally funded, school boards are expected to identify in VFA.facility how the remaining project cost (i.e., 20%) was supported using provincial funds.

## **4. Capital Planning Capacity (CPC)**

The CPC program is intended to:

- Help school boards develop capital plans to effectively manage their schools;
- Identify and develop potential facility partnership opportunities in underutilized schools that have been deemed by the board as being viable to support such arrangements; and
- Provide support to hire third-party mediation services to facilitate municipal/board planning discussions and to support cooperative planning.

For the 2023-24 school year, school board funding levels under the CPC program will be maintained from the previous year.

See Appendix E to review your funding under this program.

## **5. Land Priorities and Site Acquisition**

The Land Priorities Grant program provides funding for school boards that require land to support future capital projects on a case by case basis. It is the source of funding to buy properties for school boards that are not eligible to collect Education Development Charges revenue, or for school sites that are required for reasons other than new residential growth.

Funding through this program supports the following:

- Sites purchases for new school construction;
- Expansion of existing sites to accommodate expanded schools;
- Site improvements such as soil remediation, additional fill or demolition of existing structures; and
- Costs associated with municipal requirements.

For the 2023-24 school year, the ministry will continue to consider funding support to school boards for the acquisition of land for capital projects. School boards may request Land Priorities funding from the ministry at any time during the year by submitting the Notification of Site Acquisition form including the rationale and other required information to their Capital Analyst in the Capital Program Branch. Please note, when requesting ministry Land Priorities funding to acquire a site, an appraisal completed by an independent 3rd party appraiser is required.

School boards are reminded that they are required to provide the ministry with advance notification of all site acquisitions, expropriations, and leases, and that the Minister has the authority to deny the transaction. This requirement applies to all site acquisitions, whether funded through ministry Land Priorities program funding, Education Development Charge revenues, or otherwise.

The ministry is requesting that school boards engage with local municipal governments before purchasing land and before finalizing any plans about future school investments.

## **6. Temporary Accommodation Allocation**

For 2023-24, the ministry will continue to fund \$40 million for the Temporary Accommodation Allocation in proportion to school boards' historical share of temporary accommodation activity. This funding may be used for portable moves, leases, and purchases, as well as for lease costs for instructional space.

As a reminder, boards may also use their School Renewal Allocation to support the repair/retrofit and replacement of existing portables due to condition. Boards are encouraged to use their Temporary Accommodation allocation prior to directing Renewal allocation funds towards existing portable costs. Renewal funding cannot be used for net new portables that would increase the board's inventory. To ensure fair and accurate temporary accommodation funding in future years, it is recommended that school boards reflect any changes to their portable inventory in the ECIS. See Appendix F to review your funding under this program.

## **7. Education Capital Information System (ECIS)**

The ministry has replaced its legacy School Facilities Inventory System (SFIS) with a new, modern and integrated Education Capital Information System. The new solution will improve efficiency and effectiveness in the administration of Education and Child Care capital and

operating funding, while automating overall business processes, meeting Ontario Public Service (OPS) Application and Security standards as well as other government needs.

Training on ECIS commenced in Spring 2022 and will continue to be delivered to school boards in a phased approach.

The new system was used for the 2022-23 School Level Data Verification (SLDV) process and will be used for future rounds of SLDV. The goal of SLDV is to verify school level data to support determination of grants and school level funding for Financial Statements, Estimates/Revised Estimates and lists of eligible schools.

The ministry will develop additional training and resource materials, as well as tools to improve user experience and functionality in ECIS. This will help ensure that the data reported in ECIS is timely, accurate and complete. Please note that since SFIS has been decommissioned, a copy of historical data in SFIS can be made available to school boards. Further details on this will be provided shortly.

## **8. New Capital Resource**

Along with the release of the 2023-24 GSN Tech Paper, we are pleased to update you on the development of the 2023-24 Capital Tech Paper. A comprehensive document is being developed that includes all capital policies, processes and accountability measures. The release of this document is expected to be released along with future capital updates.

## **Concluding Remarks**

Some of the elements and proposals set out in this memo can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Minister of Education or Lieutenant Governor in Council under the *Education Act* or other legislation as required. Such regulations have not yet been made. Therefore, the content of this memo should be considered subject to such regulations, if and when made.

## **Key Contacts**

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact:

Contact	Subject Area
Andrea Dutton, Director Capital Policy Branch (416) 500-8402 <a href="mailto:Andrea.Dutton@ontario.ca">Andrea.Dutton@ontario.ca</a>	School Condition Assessment Program Funding for School Renewal School Operations Allocation Capital Planning Capacity Program
Paul Bloye, Director Capital Programs Branch (416) 325-8589 <a href="mailto:Paul.Bloye@ontario.ca">Paul.Bloye@ontario.ca</a>	Capital Priorities Funding Child Care Capital Funding Land Priorities Funding Temporary Accommodation Allocation Capital Accountability Framework Major Capital Progress Report
Patrizia Del Riccio, Director (A) Business Operations Strategic Support Branch (416) 885-2950 <a href="mailto:Patrizia.DelRiccio@ontario.ca">Patrizia.DelRiccio@ontario.ca</a>	Rapid Build Modular
Mehul Mehta, Director School Board Advanced Support Branch (647) 448-3862 <a href="mailto:Mehul.Mehta@ontario.ca">Mehul.Mehta@ontario.ca</a>	School Facilities Inventory System Education Capital Information System

*Original Signed by*

Didem Proulx  
 Assistant Deputy Minister  
 Capital and Business Support Division

c: School Board Facilities Managers

## **Appendix A: School Condition Assessment Program**

Facility assessments will be non-invasive inspections of school facilities across the province. Each assessment will be conducted by an assessment team of two (2) engineers; one with expertise in building design and construction and the other with expertise in building systems (e.g., mechanical, and electrical).

To ensure that assessments are carried out smoothly and consistently, the assessment team will be conducting pilot assessments at a small number of facilities prior to the official launch of the cycle. VFA will document the assessment process and results and note any barriers to the program design. Once pilot assessments are complete, and refinements are made as required, the regular assessment will commence.

### **Facility Eligibility**

All open and operating schools that offer K – 12 programming, continuing (i.e. adult) education facilities and outdoor education centres will be eligible for a facility condition assessment once every cycle (5 years). One (1) administrative building (incl. board offices, maintenance facilities, etc.) will be eligible for assessment per cycle. Short-term (under 9 years) third-party leases will not be eligible for assessment.

It should be noted that only facilities that the board anticipates will be opening and operating for the next five (5) years will be assessed. Facilities that are not being used by the board for programming are not eligible. In the case that a school board requires an out-of-scope facility to be assessed, written approval must be obtained prior to commencing an assessment.

### **Assessment Scope**

Education facilities that are at least eight (8) years old will receive a full facility condition assessment. Education Facilities that are five (5) to seven (7) years old will receive a new facility condition assessment, where the number of items assessed is reduced. Facilities less than five years old, will not be assessed.

The assessment team will look to, where possible, the renewal of existing components unless they are obsolete or have a significant negative impact on the cost, performance or energy use compared with the current standard.

To support long-term planning, assessors will identify action items over a 10-year window (this was previously 5 years). All renewal needs will be captured by building addition. School boards will be asked to review the facility data and building addition data to ensure that data is accurately captured in the system and assessment reports.

### **Accessibility Review**

The Accessibility Review is intended to capture capital costs associated with making facilities accessible (e.g., parking, barrier free paths of travel, washrooms). The review builds on the accessibility calculator

from the previous assessment program. School boards will be asked to complete the survey prior to assessment, which will be reviewed and updated as required by the assessment team.

### **Energy Calculator**

The purpose of the Energy Calculator is to support overall school board decision-making around undertaking improvements and retrofits that reduce energy use, costs, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The calculator captures associated renewal/upgrade costs and impact a project will have on energy usage and GHG emissions.

School boards will be expected to input the required data into the calculator which will be validated (and modified, as needed) by assessors as they complete the condition assessment of the facility. School boards will be able to produce reports on energy efficiency to support capital renewal plans.

### **Ventilation Review**

Ventilation is an important part of keeping students and staff safe. The ventilation review is intended to capture information on HVAC-related systems, their current capabilities, condition, and provide modelled costs to support upgrades. All system-related details will be captured by building addition.

To support this review, school boards are expected to provide information on their ventilation-related components within their facilities prior to the assessments, which will be reviewed by the assessment team during the facility condition assessment. School boards will be able to generate reports with a view on improving ventilation and air quality in their schools.

### **Live Facility Condition Index (FCI)**

As school boards report completed renewal projects that address assessed renewal needs and close these projects down, the FCI for that facility shall reflect the investments made. Historic tracking of FCI for individual facilities will be available to ensure comprehensive record-tracking.

### **Investment Review**

As facilities are assessed per year, up to 100 will be selected to confirm that major renewal work reported as being completed was in fact completed. This is intended to be reviewed through the non-invasive assessment and is not a financial review.

### **Scheduling**

As EDU works with VFA to launch the new cycle of assessments, staff from VFA will reach out to your board to develop the assessment schedule, schedule pre-assessment meetings, facility assessments, and other meetings, as needed. In general, for a facility to be eligible for assessment in 2023, it should not have been assessed in the last five years.



## **Training**

VFA will also provide training for school board staff on topics such as facility assessments and how to use the VFA facility software. An overview guide on the assessment program is also under development and will be shared with school boards.

## Appendix B: 2023-24 SCI and SRA Funding

Board ID	Board Name	SCI (\$)	SRA (projected) (\$)
1	District School Board Ontario North East	13,809,385	3,242,978
2	Algoma District School Board	11,994,493	3,358,852
3	Rainbow District School Board	12,645,946	3,335,040
4	Near North District School Board	4,215,893	2,690,850
5.1	Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	7,908,432	2,035,429
5.2	Rainy River District School Board	3,081,084	1,198,517
6.1	Lakehead District School Board	8,116,017	2,415,663
6.2	Superior-Greenstone District School Board	4,842,130	1,358,744
7	Bluewater District School Board	6,467,710	3,637,876
8	Avon Maitland District School Board	12,007,952	3,684,839
9	Greater Essex County District School Board	20,372,809	6,425,214
10	Lambton Kent District School Board	18,026,506	4,602,394
11	Thames Valley District School Board	51,185,970	13,977,528
12	Toronto District School Board	245,979,996	46,847,436
13	Durham District School Board	17,960,901	11,515,007
14	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board	15,269,912	6,707,383
15	Trillium Lakelands District School Board	10,982,905	3,512,290
16	York Region District School Board	28,743,094	18,182,236
17	Simcoe County District School Board	12,089,962	9,128,277
18	Upper Grand District School Board	10,987,570	6,327,846
19	Peel District School Board	46,569,706	20,826,933
20	Halton District School Board	21,330,105	10,620,653
21	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board	18,443,163	8,751,981
22	District School Board of Niagara	23,377,507	8,222,728
23	Grand Erie District School Board	17,304,503	5,865,295
24	Waterloo Region District School Board	32,937,607	10,428,611
25	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	47,639,336	15,467,287
26	Upper Canada District School Board	19,590,568	7,321,772
27	Limestone District School Board	16,938,019	4,595,842
28	Renfrew County District School Board	6,629,079	2,868,167
29	Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board	10,921,411	3,554,910
30.1	Northeastern Catholic District School Board	3,279,265	1,053,449
30.2	Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board	1,694,313	905,607
31	Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board	2,459,637	1,377,556
32	Sudbury Catholic District School Board	5,376,781	1,427,867
33.1	Northwest Catholic District School Board	305,391	705,820
33.2	Kenora Catholic District School Board	1,579,292	552,666
34.1	Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board	4,820,102	1,562,799
34.2	Superior North Catholic District School Board	1,838,031	727,831
35	Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board	1,360,232	1,014,142
36	Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	2,640,463	882,339
37	Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board	9,602,061	3,664,090
38	London District Catholic School Board	6,227,592	4,222,488
39	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	4,204,037	1,552,412
40	Toronto Catholic District School Board	48,936,273	16,337,120
41	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board	5,478,159	2,260,122
42	York Catholic District School Board	12,627,829	6,713,834

Board ID	Board Name	SCI (\$)	SRA (projected) (\$)
43	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board	23,188,565	9,734,402
44	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	4,154,027	3,295,199
45	Durham Catholic District School Board	5,297,165	3,219,467
46	Halton Catholic District School Board	5,802,574	4,777,186
47	Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	7,809,260	4,717,805
48	Wellington Catholic District School Board	1,083,997	1,277,090
49	Waterloo Catholic District School Board	7,198,228	4,105,137
50	Niagara Catholic District School Board	12,923,139	3,860,613
51	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board	2,526,023	1,928,348
52	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario	4,918,007	2,177,006
53	Ottawa Catholic School Board	17,823,010	7,951,772
54	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board	4,765,132	1,117,149
55	Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board	6,708,710	2,264,095
56	Conseil scolaire de district du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	933,298	866,194
57	Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	4,581,486	1,261,251
58	Conseil scolaire Viamonde	9,754,308	2,894,813
59	Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	4,907,623	3,132,866
60.1	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Grandes	13,997,063	3,332,749
60.2	Conseil scolaire de district catholique Franco-Nord	3,613,570	1,034,078
61	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-	6,170,022	1,923,061
62	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores	518,338	638,556
63	Conseil scolaire catholique Providence	4,200,363	1,850,773
64	Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	8,887,278	2,850,428
65	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien	9,029,083	2,888,560
66	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario	8,410,602	4,378,330

## Appendix C: Eligibility Criteria under SCI & SRA

Eligible Expenditures	SCI	SCI	SRA
	Restricted (70%)	Unrestricted (30%)	
<b>Capital – Renew / Replace Components</b>			
Substructure (e.g., foundations, basement walls)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shell / Superstructure (e.g., roofs, exterior walls and windows)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interiors (e.g., stairs, floor finishes, ceilings)	No	Yes	Yes
Services (e.g., plumbing, HVAC, fire protection and electrical)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Equipment & Furnishings (e.g., <u>fixed</u> items only)	No	Yes	Yes
Special Construction & Demolition (i.e., hazardous waste removal)	No	Yes	Yes
Building Sitework (e.g., parking lots, site lighting, pavements, site utilities)	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Capital – Other</b>			
Portables repair and retrofits	No	No	Yes (TA funds should be used first)
Additional portable purchase (i.e., adding to board inventory)	No	No	No
Program or accommodation related changes and retrofits (e.g., science labs converted into standard classroom)	No	No	Yes
New building enhancements: Non-renewal projects (e.g., accessibility, air conditioning, building automation systems, etc.)	No	No	Yes
Administrative facilities	No	No	No
Construction (e.g., changes to gross floor area or the replacement of existing building structures)	No	No	No
Salaries and wages for school board staff	No	No	No
Service debt (SRA only for previously encumbered debt. No allowance for new debt)	No	No	No
Moveable furniture and equipment (e.g. vehicles, furniture, equipment, computer hardware and computer software)	No	No	No
Community partners	No (should operate on cost-recovery basis)		
Outdoor Education Centre	Requires minister's approval		
Leased Site	Requires minister's approval		
<b>Operating</b>			
Maintenance (e.g., costs incurred to service or maintain the tangible capital asset until the end of its estimated useful life)	No	No	Yes (with board-specific caps)

## Appendix D: 2023-24 Supplementary Area Factors (SAFs)

Board ID	Board Name	Revised Elementary SAF	Revised Secondary SAF
1	District School Board Ontario North East	1.000	1.229
2	Algoma District School Board	1.000	1.168
3	Rainbow District School Board	1.000	1.138
4	Near North District School Board	1.000	1.074
5.1	Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	1.000	1.034
5.2	Rainy River District School Board	1.000	1.024
6.1	Lakehead District School Board	1.047	1.000
6.2	Superior-Greenstone District School Board	1.012	1.158
7	Bluewater District School Board	1.000	1.038
8	Avon Maitland District School Board	1.000	1.081
9	Greater Essex County District School Board	1.000	1.000
10	Lambton Kent District School Board	1.000	1.049
11	Thames Valley District School Board	1.000	1.058
12	Toronto District School Board	1.153	1.123
13	Durham District School Board	1.010	1.030
14	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board	1.000	1.104
15	Trillium Lakelands District School Board	1.000	1.000
16	York Region District School Board	1.000	1.036
17	Simcoe County District School Board	1.008	1.000
18	Upper Grand District School Board	1.000	1.000
19	Peel District School Board	1.000	1.000
20	Halton District School Board	1.000	1.000
21	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board	1.015	1.000
22	District School Board of Niagara	1.000	1.065
23	Grand Erie District School Board	1.000	1.063
24	Waterloo Region District School Board	1.000	1.000
25	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	1.055	1.100
26	Upper Canada District School Board	1.000	1.123
27	Limestone District School Board	1.000	1.205
28	Renfrew County District School Board	1.000	1.148
29	Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board	1.000	1.100
30.1	Northeastern Catholic District School Board	1.024	1.570
30.2	Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board	1.120	1.037
31	Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.000
32	Sudbury Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.073
33.1	Northwest Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.000
33.2	Kenora Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.000
34.1	Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.069

<b>Board ID</b>	<b>Board Name</b>	<b>Revised Elementary SAF</b>	<b>Revised Secondary SAF</b>
34.2	Superior North Catholic District School Board	1.123	1.000
35	Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.056
36	Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.000
37	Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.104
38	London District Catholic School Board	1.000	1.003
39	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	1.003	1.000
40	Toronto Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.011
41	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.061
42	York Catholic District School Board	1.005	1.005
43	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.000
44	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.027
45	Durham Catholic District School Board	1.056	1.000
46	Halton Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.000
47	Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.045
48	Wellington Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.000
49	Waterloo Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.030
50	Niagara Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.000
51	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board	1.000	1.019
52	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario	1.011	1.000
53	Ottawa Catholic School Board	1.066	1.000
54	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board	1.159	1.000
55	Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board	1.042	1.000
56	Conseil scolaire de district du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	1.050	1.000
57	Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	1.000	1.097
58	Conseil scolaire Viamonde	1.002	1.257
59	Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	1.000	1.119
60.1	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Grandes Rivières	1.020	1.063
60.2	Conseil scolaire de district catholique Franco-Nord	1.121	1.085
61	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario	1.000	1.000
62	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales	1.000	1.631
63	Conseil scolaire catholique Providence	1.000	1.207
64	Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	1.022	1.310
65	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien	1.000	1.000
66	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario	1.039	1.081

## Appendix E: 2023-24 Capital Planning Capacity

Board ID	Board Name	CPC (\$)
1	District School Board Ontario North East	150,111
2	Algoma District School Board	150,111
3	Rainbow District School Board	150,111
4	Near North District School Board	150,111
5.1	Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	111,123
5.2	Rainy River District School Board	83,185
6.1	Lakehead District School Board	150,111
6.2	Superior-Greenstone District School Board	111,123
7	Bluewater District School Board	163,370
8	Avon Maitland District School Board	122,173
9	Greater Essex County District School Board	163,370
10	Lambton Kent District School Board	163,370
11	Thames Valley District School Board	198,728
12	Toronto District School Board	361,309
13	Durham District School Board	55,525
14	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board	163,370
15	Trillium Lakelands District School Board	163,370
16	York Region District School Board	66,758
17	Simcoe County District School Board	55,525
18	Upper Grand District School Board	46,217
19	Peel District School Board	80,238
20	Halton District School Board	55,525
21	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board	179,392
22	District School Board of Niagara	207,330
23	Grand Erie District School Board	163,370
24	Waterloo Region District School Board	55,525
25	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	235,269
26	Upper Canada District School Board	235,269
27	Limestone District School Board	135,432
28	Renfrew County District School Board	122,173
29	Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board	150,111
30.1	Northeastern Catholic District School Board	111,123
30.2	Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board	83,185
31	Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board	111,123
32	Sudbury Catholic District School Board	32,095
33.1	Northwest Catholic District School Board	32,095
33.2	Kenora Catholic District School Board	83,185
34.1	Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board	83,185

<b>Board ID</b>	<b>Board Name</b>	<b>CPC (\$)</b>
34.2	Superior North Catholic District School Board	32,095
35	Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board	32,095
36	Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	32,095
37	Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board	122,173
38	London District Catholic School Board	135,432
39	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	38,514
40	Toronto Catholic District School Board	310,483
41	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board	38,514
42	York Catholic District School Board	207,330
43	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board	207,330
44	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	46,217
45	Durham Catholic District School Board	38,514
46	Halton Catholic District School Board	46,217
47	Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	46,217
48	Wellington Catholic District School Board	32,095
49	Waterloo Catholic District School Board	38,514
50	Niagara Catholic District School Board	46,217
51	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board	122,173
52	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario	122,173
53	Ottawa Catholic School Board	163,370
54	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board	111,123
55	Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board	38,514
56	Conseil scolaire de district du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	32,095
57	Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	111,123
58	Conseil scolaire Viamonde	46,217
59	Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	122,173
60.1	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Grandes Rivières	178,050
60.2	Conseil scolaire de district catholique Franco-Nord	32,095
61	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario	150,111
62	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales	32,095
63	Conseil scolaire catholique Providence	94,234
64	Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	46,217
65	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien	178,050
66	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario	135,432



## Appendix F: 2023-24 Temporary Accommodation Allocation

DSB	School Board Name	Allocation (\$)
1	District School Board Ontario North East	-
2	Algoma District School Board	42,949
3	Rainbow District School Board	144,341
4	Near North District School Board	-
5.1	Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	-
5.2	Rainy River District School Board	21,474
6.1	Lakehead District School Board	-
6.2	Superior-Greenstone District School Board	-
7	Bluewater District School Board	524,893
8	Avon Maitland District School Board	64,423
9	Greater Essex County District School Board	257,694
10	Lambton Kent District School Board	137,513
11	Thames Valley District School Board	1,438,791
12	Toronto District School Board	279,168
13	Durham District School Board	1,481,740
14	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board	987,826
15	Trillium Lakelands District School Board	-
16	York Region District School Board	1,245,520
17	Simcoe County District School Board	2,861,467
18	Upper Grand District School Board	536,862
19	Peel District School Board	854,885
20	Halton District School Board	3,264,994
21	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board	669,740
22	District School Board of Niagara	751,607
23	Grand Erie District School Board	322,117
24	Waterloo Region District School Board	1,513,233
25	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	1,288,469
26	Upper Canada District School Board	171,796
27	Limestone District School Board	64,423
28	Renfrew County District School Board	74,018
29	Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board	344,838
30.1	Northeastern Catholic District School Board	-
30.2	Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board	21,474
31	Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board	-
32	Sudbury Catholic District School Board	-
33.1	Northwest Catholic District School Board	21,474
33.2	Kenora Catholic District School Board	-
34.1	Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board	18,928
34.2	Superior North Catholic District School Board	-

DSB	School Board Name	Allocation (\$)
35	Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board	214,745
36	Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	48,676
37	Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board	214,745
38	London District Catholic School Board	3,540,471
39	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	543,228
40	Toronto Catholic District School Board	3,534,281
41	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board	85,898
42	York Catholic District School Board	128,847
43	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board	490,718
44	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	751,607
45	Durham Catholic District School Board	543,258
46	Halton Catholic District School Board	2,011,444
47	Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	150,321
48	Wellington Catholic District School Board	107,372
49	Waterloo Catholic District School Board	3,563,571
50	Niagara Catholic District School Board	529,704
51	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board	386,541
52	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario	85,898
53	Ottawa Catholic School Board	1,095,199
54	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board	12,552
55	Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board	415,530
56	Conseil scolaire de district du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	21,474
57	Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	44,381
58	Conseil scolaire Viamonde	372,898
59	Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	193,270
60.1	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Grandes Rivières	-
60.2	Conseil scolaire de district catholique Franco-Nord	-
61	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario	-
62	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales	-
63	Conseil scolaire catholique Providence	686,242
64	Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	305,083
65	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien	21,474
66	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario	493,913

**Ministry of Education**

Capital and Business Support  
Division

315 Front Street West  
15th Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Division du soutien aux  
immobilisations et aux affaires

315, rue Front Ouest  
15e étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8

**2023: B06**

**Date:** April 17, 2023

**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education  
Senior Business Officials

**From:** Didem Proulx  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

**Subject:** **Student Transportation Grant – Grants for Student Needs  
2023-24**

---

As part of the announcement of the 2023-24 Grants for Student Needs (GSN), I am writing to provide details on changes to the Student Transportation Grant.

The ministry recognizes the importance of student transportation services for students and families and is committed to helping school boards deliver safe, effective, and efficient transportation services.

Starting with the 2023-24 school year, the ministry is implementing a new funding framework for Student Transportation Grant that is transparent, equitable, and focused on reliability.

This new funding framework has been informed by several engagements with the sector including:

- Student Transportation Advisory Group launched in 2020
- Technical Committee on Reference Standards established in 2021
- Consultation sessions conducted in Fall of 2022

The ministry would like to acknowledge and thank the hard work of representatives that participated in these engagements, including:

- Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)

- Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Council of Senior Business Officials (COSBO)
- School Bus Ontario (SBO) and representatives from Bus Operators
- Transportation Committee of the Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) and representatives from Student Transportation Consortia

The feedback and advice from these engagements was critical in informing the development of the new funding framework for Student Transportation which:

- Establishes a needs-based Common Reference Standards (i.e., home-to-school distance criteria) for funding to encourage consistency and improve equitable access to student transportation services across Ontario;
- Establishes evidence-based funding benchmarks that reflect the cost of providing services; and
- Provides transition support so that no school board receives less funding as a result of the new model – to allow school boards and their transportation consortia and service providers to align policies and costs with the funding framework.

### **Student Transportation Grant for 2023-24**

The Student Transportation Grant is projected to total \$1,233.2 million and is made up of the following three allocations:

- Transportation Services Allocation - \$1,225.8 million
- School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation - \$1.7 million
- Transportation to Provincial or Demonstration Schools Allocation - \$5.7 million

The Student Transportation Grant's projected allocation for each school board is presented in the Appendix.

### **Transportation Services Allocation**

This is a new allocation, projected to total \$1,225.8 million, being introduced for 2023-24 school year and reflects the following:

- Number of students deemed eligible based on common home-to-school distance thresholds applied to all school boards;
- Determining the optimal number of school-bus routes needed as well as leveraging use of public transit where services are available;
- Establishing transparent benchmarks that are intended to represent the cost of services such as:
  - Annual cost of purchasing and operating school buses;

- continuing to reflect changes in market prices of fuel including a mechanism for fuel price adjustment (fuel escalator / de-escalator);
- setting compensation benchmarks for school bus drivers (such as an average hourly wage benchmark of \$23 and 13% for statutory benefits); and
- including a provision for spare capacity.

This allocation also includes over \$160 million to support Local Priorities and Operations that can allow school boards to address unique circumstances, needs and operations of their transportation services.

As this is the first year of a new funding formula, the Transportation Services Allocation includes about \$89 million in transition support to ensure that no school board experiences a decline in funding compared to their allocation from the 2022-23 school year.

The transition support is expected to be in place through the 2026-27 school year and the funding impacts will be updated annually to reflect changes in enrolment, new routing results, and changes to benchmarks.

Additional details on the Transportation Services Allocation can be found in the 2023-24 GSN Technical Paper.

### **School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation**

The total Student Transportation Grant includes about \$1.7 million for School Bus Rider Safety Training. The standardized training for elementary students continues to be available in English and French through a contract established by the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) with Intertrain. It is important to note that only training programs delivered by Intertrain through this OECM contract are eligible for this safety training funding support.

Funding allocation for this training component is based on the following:

- Projected number of funded in-person sessions, based on 250 students per session, to cover at least 50 per cent of each boards' elementary students in 2023-24.
- Reimbursement rate of \$370 and \$244 for each in-person and online training session respectively.
- Column B of the Appendix lists the number of projected in-person sessions for each board.
- Actual funding will be based on the number of on-site and/or online sessions delivered. Boards will be required to report the number of on-site and online training sessions conducted through 2023-24 financial statements.
- If rider safety training sessions are conducted virtually for 2023-24 as has been the case in the recent years, boards will be able to train more than 50 per cent of their elementary students.

For more information on the standardized school bus rider safety training, please visit the [OECM website](#). Questions about accessing this program and establishing an agreement should be directed to OECM through Mie Okawa at [mie.okawa@oecm.ca](mailto:mie.okawa@oecm.ca) or 647-289-3717.

### **Transportation to Provincial or Demonstration Schools Allocation**

As in prior years, funding to cover expenditures for transportation to Provincial and Demonstration schools will be based on expenditures reported by school boards, as approved by the ministry. School boards may report these expenses through financial reports and receive direct reimbursement with expenditure approval.

### **Enhanced Reporting**

With the new funding model, the ministry is continuing to modernize the student transportation system and support access to in-person schooling to enable the success of our students. The new funding model contains components – such as the support for drivers and the allocations for spare vehicles and drivers – that the ministry expects will reduce cancellations and improve reliability of service on the ground.

To ensure the success of the new funding model, the ministry will be introducing new accountability and reporting requirements related to school bus driver compensation, availability of spare capacities, and use of public transit. The ministry will work with the sector on these measures and requirements and provide further details at a later time.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Please note that some of the elements and proposals set out in this memo can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Minister of Education or Lieutenant Governor in Council under the *Education Act* or other legislation as required. Such regulations have not yet been made. Therefore, the content of this memo should be considered subject to such regulations, if and when made.

In closing, the ministry would like to thank you and acknowledge the need for ongoing collaboration with the sector to modernize student transportation funding in Ontario.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mehul Mehta, Director, School Board Advanced Support Branch, at (647) 448-3862 or [mehul.mehta@ontario.ca](mailto:mehul.mehta@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Didem Proulx  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

cc: Transportation Consortia Managers

APPENDIX: PROJECTED STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GRANT FOR 2023-24

		A	B	C	D	E = A + C + D
DSB NO	DSB Name	Transportation Services Allocation	Maximum Safety Training Sessions <sup>i</sup>	School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation	Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation <sup>ii</sup>	PROJECTED 2023-24 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GRANT <sup>iii</sup>
1	District School Board Ontario North East	\$ 9,853,592.93	24	\$ 8,880	-	\$ 9,862,472.93
2	Algoma District School Board	\$ 10,764,352.84	32	\$ 11,840	-	\$ 10,776,192.84
3	Rainbow District School Board	\$ 16,071,165.35	36	\$ 13,320	-	\$ 16,084,485.35
4	Near North District School Board	\$ 13,336,564.26	32	\$ 11,840	-	\$ 13,348,404.26
5.1	Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	\$ 5,605,661.32	17	\$ 6,290	-	\$ 5,611,951.32
5.2	Rainy River District School Board	\$ 3,404,487.44	11	\$ 4,070	-	\$ 3,408,557.44
6.1	Lakehead District School Board	\$ 7,617,706.80	25	\$ 9,250	-	\$ 7,626,956.80
6.2	Superior-Greenstone District School Board	\$ 1,925,299.65	10	\$ 3,700	-	\$ 1,928,999.65
7	Bluewater District School Board	\$ 17,301,888.08	45	\$ 16,650	-	\$ 17,318,538.08
8	Avon Maitland District School Board	\$ 14,527,698.18	39	\$ 14,430	\$ 198,716	\$ 14,740,844.18
9	Greater Essex County District School Board	\$ 16,142,294.36	75	\$ 27,750	-	\$ 16,170,044.36
10	Lambton Kent District School Board	\$ 15,135,201.89	56	\$ 20,720	\$ 187,214	\$ 15,343,135.89
11	Thames Valley District School Board	\$ 52,724,624.81	181	\$ 66,970	\$ 583,302	\$ 53,374,896.81
12	Toronto District School Board	\$ 77,835,495.28	532	\$ 196,840	\$ 144,545	\$ 78,176,880.28
13	Durham District School Board	\$ 27,997,347.72	162	\$ 59,940	-	\$ 28,057,287.72
14	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board	\$ 25,505,828.22	89	\$ 32,930	\$ 140,023	\$ 25,678,781.22
15	Trillium Lakelands District School Board	\$ 17,967,981.07	42	\$ 15,540	-	\$ 17,983,521.07
16	York Region District School Board	\$ 46,040,608.68	258	\$ 95,460	\$ 71,000	\$ 46,207,068.68
17	Simcoe County District School Board	\$ 24,474,161.64	124	\$ 45,880	\$ 60,000	\$ 24,580,041.64
18	Upper Grand District School Board	\$ 24,817,555.95	83	\$ 30,710	\$ 185,000	\$ 25,033,265.95
19	Peel District School Board	\$ 55,164,615.45	308	\$ 113,960	\$ 496,900	\$ 55,775,475.45

		A	B	C	D	E = A + C + D
DSB NO	DSB Name	Transportation Services Allocation	Maximum Safety Training Sessions <sup>i</sup>	School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation	Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation <sup>ii</sup>	PROJECTED 2023-24 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GRANT <sup>iii</sup>
20	Halton District School Board	\$ 18,972,395.65	135	\$ 49,950	\$ 272,940	\$ 19,295,285.65
21	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board	\$ 19,762,359.86	111	\$ 41,070	\$ 510,000	\$ 20,313,429.86
22	District School Board of Niagara	\$ 23,358,848.49	91	\$ 33,670	-	\$ 23,392,518.49
23	Grand Erie District School Board	\$ 16,205,393.85	64	\$ 23,680	\$ 361,844	\$ 16,590,917.85
24	Waterloo Region District School Board	\$ 19,711,463.95	138	\$ 51,060	\$ 383,409	\$ 20,145,932.95
25	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	\$ 46,999,931.78	162	\$ 59,940	-	\$ 47,059,871.78
26	Upper Canada District School Board	\$ 36,815,959.45	72	\$ 26,640	-	\$ 36,842,599.45
27	Limestone District School Board	\$ 18,118,685.18	54	\$ 19,980	\$ 220,000	\$ 18,358,665.18
28	Renfrew County District School Board	\$ 9,933,553.63	24	\$ 8,880	-	\$ 9,942,433.63
29	Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board	\$ 16,738,698.66	40	\$ 14,800	\$ 307,800	\$ 17,061,298.66
30.1	Northeastern Catholic District School Board	\$ 3,767,147.36	11	\$ 4,070	-	\$ 3,771,217.36
30.2	Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board	\$ 4,189,475.80	11	\$ 4,070	-	\$ 4,193,545.80
31	Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board	\$ 4,959,886.72	15	\$ 5,550	-	\$ 4,965,436.72
32	Sudbury Catholic District School Board	\$ 7,204,245.55	15	\$ 5,550	-	\$ 7,209,795.55
33.1	Northwest Catholic District School Board	\$ 1,676,435.69	5	\$ 1,850	-	\$ 1,678,285.69
33.2	Kenora Catholic District School Board	\$ 1,497,132.30	4	\$ 1,480	-	\$ 1,498,612.30
34.1	Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board	\$ 6,028,045.39	19	\$ 7,030	-	\$ 6,035,075.39



		A	B	C	D	E = A + C + D
DSB NO	DSB Name	Transportation Services Allocation	Maximum Safety Training Sessions <sup>i</sup>	School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation	Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation <sup>ii</sup>	PROJECTED 2023-24 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GRANT <sup>iii</sup>
34.2	Superior North Catholic District School Board	\$ 959,295.48	7	\$ 2,590	-	\$ 961,885.48
35	Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board	\$ 6,582,736.31	12	\$ 4,440	-	\$ 6,587,176.31
36	Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	\$ 7,284,586.22	16	\$ 5,920	-	\$ 7,290,506.22
37	Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board	\$ 10,431,877.45	43	\$ 15,910	-	\$ 10,447,787.45
38	London District Catholic School Board	\$ 20,119,385.50	52	\$ 19,240	\$ 8,200	\$ 20,146,825.50
39	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	\$ 7,782,794.98	25	\$ 9,250	\$ 124,530	\$ 7,916,574.98
40	Toronto Catholic District School Board	\$ 49,303,700.74	197	\$ 72,890	\$ 239,633	\$ 49,616,223.74
41	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board	\$ 13,283,632.50	36	\$ 13,320	-	\$ 13,296,952.50
42	York Catholic District School Board	\$ 20,486,218.09	99	\$ 36,630	-	\$ 20,522,848.09
43	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board	\$ 22,270,616.87	136	\$ 50,320	\$ 148,235	\$ 22,469,171.87
44	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	\$ 14,870,842.77	54	\$ 19,980	-	\$ 14,890,822.77
45	Durham Catholic District School Board	\$ 10,444,213.22	50	\$ 18,500	-	\$ 10,462,713.22
46	Halton Catholic District School Board	\$ 10,286,871.40	64	\$ 23,680	\$ 75,460	\$ 10,386,011.40
47	Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	\$ 11,506,961.70	59	\$ 21,830	\$ 130,000	\$ 11,658,791.70
48	Wellington Catholic District School Board	\$ 6,488,375.61	20	\$ 7,400	-	\$ 6,495,775.61

		A	B	C	D	E = A + C + D
DSB NO	DSB Name	Transportation Services Allocation	Maximum Safety Training Sessions <sup>i</sup>	School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation	Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation <sup>ii</sup>	PROJECTED 2023-24 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GRANT <sup>iii</sup>
49	Waterloo Catholic District School Board	\$ 8,991,292.11	54	\$ 19,980	\$ 146,641	\$ 9,157,913.11
50	Niagara Catholic District School Board	\$ 11,810,118.29	53	\$ 19,610	\$ 46,800	\$ 11,876,528.29
51	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board	\$ 8,874,748.72	31	\$ 11,470	-	\$ 8,886,218.72
52	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario	\$ 21,093,906.86	35	\$ 12,950	-	\$ 21,106,856.86
53	Ottawa Catholic District School Board	\$ 27,964,249.11	100	\$ 37,000	-	\$ 28,001,249.11
54	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board	\$ 6,149,821.27	20	\$ 7,400	-	\$ 6,157,221.27
55	Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board	\$ 14,342,723.26	35	\$ 12,950	\$ 73,440	\$ 14,429,113.26
56	Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	\$ 3,403,890.31	9	\$ 3,330	-	\$ 3,407,220.31
57	Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	\$ 3,765,878.32	14	\$ 5,180	-	\$ 3,771,058.32
58	Conseil scolaire Viamonde	\$ 22,038,651.25	49	\$ 18,130	-	\$ 22,056,781.25
59	Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	\$ 17,578,552.71	42	\$ 15,540	-	\$ 17,594,092.71
60.1	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Grandes Rivières	\$ 8,804,307.70	24	\$ 8,880	-	\$ 8,813,187.70
60.2	Conseil scolaire de district catholique Franco-Nord	\$ 4,029,982.42	11	\$ 4,070	-	\$ 4,034,052.42
61	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario	\$ 7,433,278.45	24	\$ 8,880	-	\$ 7,442,158.45

		A	B	C	D	E = A + C + D
DSB NO	DSB Name	Transportation Services Allocation	Maximum Safety Training Sessions <sup>i</sup>	School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation	Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation <sup>ii</sup>	PROJECTED 2023-24 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GRANT <sup>iii</sup>
62	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales	\$ 1,324,525.88	6	\$ 2,220	-	\$ 1,326,745.88
63	Conseil scolaire catholique Providence	\$ 11,263,538.26	26	\$ 9,620	-	\$ 11,273,158.26
64	Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	\$ 30,952,445.72	54	\$ 19,980	-	\$ 30,972,425.72
65	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien	\$ 12,609,468.59	31	\$ 11,470	-	\$ 12,620,938.59
66	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario	\$ 21,083,653.81	61	\$ 22,570	\$ 605,891	\$ 21,712,114.81

## Notes

<sup>i</sup> Reflects number of in-person sessions for School Bus Rider Safety Training.

<sup>ii</sup> Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation includes an estimated expenditure amount for the board Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario; and the other school boards that have the responsibilities to plan and deliver provincial school transportation. Figures are as of 2022-23 Revised Estimates and subject to change pending receipt of 2022-23 Financial Statements.

<sup>iii</sup> The 2022-23 Revised Estimates transportation allocation and the projected 2023-24 Average Daily Enrolment are being referenced in the calculation of the 2023-24 Student Transportation Grant. They are subject to change pending receipt of 2022-23 Financial Statement and the actual 2023-24 Average Daily Enrolment.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: FINANCIAL REPORTS AS AT MARCH 31, 2023**

---

---

The Financial Reports as at March 31, 2023 is presented for information.

---

---

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services  
Rosa Rocca, Financial Controller of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023



**REPORT TO THE BOARD  
APRIL 25, 2023**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS AS AT MARCH 31, 2023**

---

---

The following information is attached for the review of the Trustees:

**APPENDIX A** INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT MARCH 31, 2023

**APPENDIX B** FORECASTED EXPENDITURE SUMMARY MARCH 31, 2023

The Financial Reports as at March 31, 2023 is presented for information.

---

---

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services  
Rosa Rocca, Controller of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023

**Niagara Catholic DSB  
2022-23 Interim Financial Report**

**For the Month Ending Mar 31, 2023**

**Summary of Financial Results**

(\$Thousands)	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
			\$	%
<b>Revenue</b>				
Operating Grants	239,873	239,873	-	0.0%
Capital Grants	29,499	29,499	-	0.0%
Other	17,890	16,390	(1,500)	(8.4%)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>287,262</b>	<b>285,762</b>	<b>(1,500)</b>	<b>(0.5%)</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Classroom	217,230	214,912	(2,318)	(1.1%)
Other Operating	8,619	8,640	21	0.2%
Transportation	11,742	11,742	-	0.0%
Pupil Accomodation	41,252	41,650	398	1.0%
Other	8,597	8,597	-	0.0%
PSAB Adjustments	947	947	-	0.0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>288,387</b>	<b>286,488</b>	<b>(1,899)</b>	<b>(0.7%)</b>
<b>In-Year Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(1,125)</b>	<b>(726)</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Prior Year Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	12,080	12,080	-	0.0%
<b>Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) for Compliance</b>	<b>10,955</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

**Changes in Revenue**

- PPE In Kind Revenue overstated in revised estimates

**Change in Expenditures**

- Variances in expenditures related to average salary used in revised estimates. Variances to be monitored over the coming months.

**Change in Reserve**

- N/A

**Change in Surplus/Deficit**

- Forecasting a slightly better deficit position at this time. Will continue to be monitored

**Risks & Recommendations**

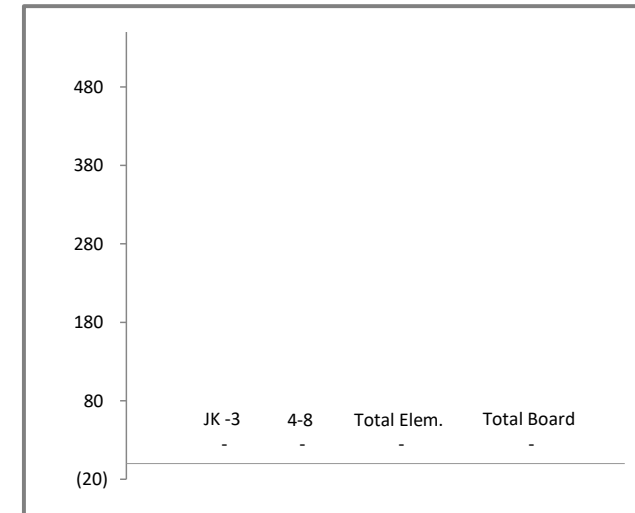
- N/A

**Summary of Enrolment**

ADE	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
			#	%
<b>Elementary</b>				
JK -3	6,925	6,925	-	0.0%
4-8	7,500	7,500	-	0.0%
<b>Total Elementary</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Secondary &lt;21</b>				
Pupils of the Board	6,263	6,263	-	0.0%
Other Pupils	37	37	-	0.0%
<b>Total Secondary</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,725</b>	<b>20,725</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

*Note: Forecast will be based on October 31st count date*

**Changes in Enrolment: Budget v. Forecast**



**Highlights of Changes in Enrolment:**

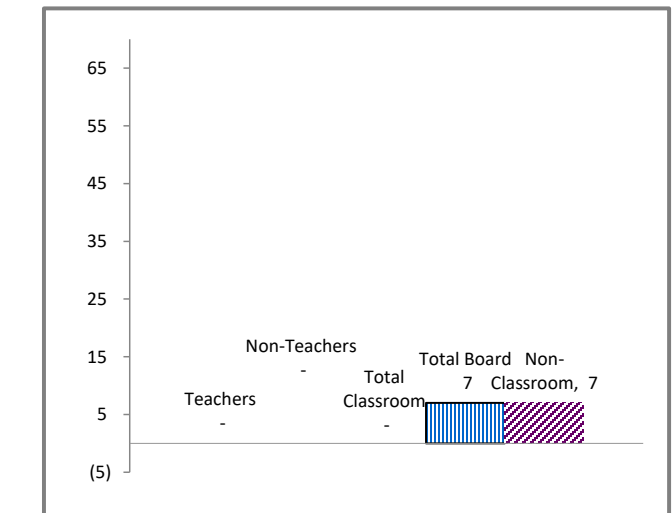
- 

\*

**Summary of Staffing**

FTE	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
			#	%
<b>Classroom</b>				
Teachers	1,233	1,233	-	0.0%
Non-Teachers	773	773	-	0.0%
<b>Total Classroom</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Non-Classroom</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

**Changes in Staffing: Budget v. Forecast**



**Highlights of Changes in Staffing:**

-

	a	e = (d-b) / b	b	c = b - a	d = c/a	
<b>2022-23</b>						
	Estimates	% Change from Prior Year Actuals	Revised Estimates	Forecast	Change	
					\$ Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
<b>OPERATING</b>						
<b>Classroom Instruction</b>						
Teachers	133,068	(4.0%)	139,329	138,523	(806)	-0.61%
Supply Teachers	6,811	6.5%	6,785	6,775	(10)	-0.15%
Teacher Assistants and ECEs	22,367	(2.5%)	23,749	22,928	(821)	-3.67%
Classroom Computers	1,402	(28.9%)	1,741	1,741	-	0.00%
Textbooks and Supplies	5,316	(41.1%)	5,652	5,652	-	0.00%
Professionals and Paraprofessionals	10,231	5.1%	10,586	10,394	(192)	-1.88%
Library and Guidance	4,233	3.2%	3,993	3,693	(300)	-7.09%
Staff Development	499	70.9%	502	487	(15)	-3.01%
Department Heads	332	2.2%	332	330	(2)	-0.60%
Principal and Vice-Principals	10,727	(2.9%)	10,317	10,370	53	0.49%
School Office	6,381	2.5%	6,546	6,277	(269)	-4.22%
Co-ordinators and Consultants	2,593	5.5%	2,738	2,642	(96)	-3.70%
Continuing Education	4,960	2.1%	4,960	5,100	140	2.82%
<b>Total Instruction</b>	<b>208,920</b>	<b>(4.2%)</b>	<b>217,230</b>	<b>214,912</b>	<b>(2,318)</b>	<b>(1.1%)</b>
<b>Administration</b>						
Trustees	265	0.8%	265	250	(15)	(5.7%)
Director/Supervisory Officers	1,397	5.8%	1,267	1,395	128	9.2%
Board Administration	6,905	9.4%	7,087	6,995	(92)	(1.3%)
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>8,567</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>8,619</b>	<b>8,640</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>11,742</b>	<b>-5.9%</b>	<b>11,742</b>	<b>11,742</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Pupil Accomodation</b>						
School Operations and Maintenance	23,102	0.7%	21,980	22,378	398	1.7%
School Renewal	1,268	(8.8%)	1,268	1,268	-	0.0%
Other Pupil Accomodation	2,303	(23.8%)	2,719	2,719	-	0.0%
Amortization and Write-downs	14,477	(0.3%)	15,285	15,285	-	0.0%
<b>Total Pupil Accomodation</b>	<b>41,150</b>	<b>(1.7%)</b>	<b>41,252</b>	<b>41,650</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>76.4%</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>278,976</b>	<b>(2.2%)</b>	<b>287,440</b>	<b>285,541</b>	<b>(1,899)</b>	<b>(0.7%)</b>
<b>PSAB Adjustments</b>	<b>(45)</b>		<b>947</b>	<b>947</b>		
	<b>278,931</b>		<b>288,387</b>	<b>286,488</b>		

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MAY 2023**

---



# MAY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Celebrating Excellence	3 SEAC Meeting	4 NCPIC Meeting	5	6
<b>CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK APRIL 30— MAY 5</b>						
7	8	9 SAL Meeting CW Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Elementary & Secondary P.A. Day	20
21	22 Victoria Day	23 Board Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Growth & Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting	31			

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
CCSTA 2023 AGM – JUNE 2023**

---



Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association

Association canadienne  
des commissaires  
d'écoles catholiques



CCSTA/ACCEC  
SASKATOON 2023

**enracinée**  
**dans la foi:**  
l'éducation catholique  
en action  
**rooted**  
**in faith:**  
catholic education  
in action

**CCSTA/ACCEC AGA 2023 AGM**

*June 1 - 3 | 1 - 3 juin*

[Click Here to Register!](#)

[Cliquez pour vous inscrire](#)

We don't know about you - but we are *very ready* to be finally gathering for our first in-person AGM & Convention in three years!

Will you be joining us?

Je ne sais pas vous, mais, en ce qui nous concerne, nous sommes TRÈS PRÊTS à nous réunir à l'AGA/Congrès; la première conférence en personne depuis trois ans! Vous joindrez-vous à nous?

Our annual CCSTA AGM and Convention is fast approaching on June 1 - 3, 2023 and we've got all of the details on registration, speakers, companion tours and more!

Our AGM is the *perfect* opportunity to connect with Catholic Educators from across the country to share stories, ignite our common passion for Catholic Education and rally together to protect its future.

**Early Bird Registration:**  
*April 28th*

Prévu du 1<sup>er</sup> au 3 juin 2023, l'AGA et le Congrès annuels de l'ACCEC approchent à grands pas. Nous avons reçu toute l'information sur l'inscription, les conférenciers, les visites des compagnons et plus encore! L'AGA est l'occasion idéale de nouer des liens avec des enseignants catholiques de l'ensemble du pays, d'échanger des faits, de nourrir notre passion commune pour l'éducation catholique et de se rassembler pour préserver son avenir.

**Inscription à l'avance: 28**  
*avril*

## Speaker Preview...



**Chief Cadmus Delorme**  
Cowessess First Nation



**Archbishop Donald Bolen**  
Archbishop of Regina



**Mike Patin**  
Coach and Ministry Worker

[See all speakers and bios here!](#)

**Details**



## Location | Emplacement

Stay across the street from the picturesque South Saskatchewan River at the Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel.

Si vous souhaitez loger à l'hôtel Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon, en face de la pittoresque rivière Saskatchewan Sud

[Reserve Your Group Rate](#)



## Companion Tours | Visites accompagnées

Indulge in a variety of hearty meals and local treats at the Berry Barn's rustic red barn. Sit down and relax while you enjoy a local liqueur or cocktail, or take a walk through their flower garden while you sip. Get a guided tour of Canada's largest science project, the Canadian Light Source.

Laissez-vous tenter par une variété de repas généreux et de spécialités locales dans la grange rouge rustique Berry Barn. Vous profiterez de l'atmosphère détendue du lieu en sirotant une liqueur ou un cocktail local dans un siège confortable ou pendant une promenade dans un jardin. Vous observerez comment l'unique synchrotron du pays peut accélérer des électrons à une vitesse proche de celle de la lumière floral.

[See the Full Companion Tour Guide!](#)

**NEW BLOG!** An Interview with Diane Boyko, Committee Chair for our 2023 AGM & Convention

**Nouveau blogue!**  
Entretien avec Diane Boyko, présidente du Comité de planification de l'AGA et du Congrès 2023



We can't wait to  
welcome you to the  
City of Bridges.

Nous sommes  
impatients de vous  
accueillir dans la ville  
des ponts.



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
DRAFT LETTER TO MINISTER LECCE**

---

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Draft Letter to Minister Lecce, as presented

---

---

Prepared by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Recommended by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 25, 2023





**NIAGARA CATHOLIC**  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Dear Minister Lecce,

The Niagara Catholic District School Board supports the Ministry's continued focus on trades, technology, and workplace pathways for Ontario students. The Ministry of Education's recent announcement about the Technological Credit requirement for all for students entering school in September 2024 affirms the importance of technological education.

We support this initiative and look forward to receiving more details on this program.

Niagara Catholic has a well-established technology education program. Year after year, students graduate from our schools with experience and training to succeed in apprentices, post-secondary learning or enter the world of work. Locally, we work closely with community partners to nurture outstanding learning opportunities for our students. We are incredibly fortunate that these partners share their time and talents with us, and many provide students with co-op placements or summer employment which gives them valuable on-the-job experience.

We also recognize the importance of promoting the skilled trades to students who may not have considered this future pathway.

Niagara Catholic regularly hosts information sessions and other encounter opportunities for both students and parents about the viability of a career in the trades. It is our experience that these sessions excite students about future career pathways and educate parents about what it means to work in the skilled trades in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Parents often leave these sessions with enthusiasm about their child's potential career options and welcome the idea of their child having a career that is both professionally and financially rewarding without amassing significant student debt.

Niagara Catholic recognizes the importance of finding the balance between offering a diverse range of programs and ensuring that the depths of programs that we offer fully meet students' needs. This is a matter of funding, space, and staffing.

Like school boards across Ontario, Niagara Catholic continues to see the need to hire more teachers, particularly those experienced in the trades, so they can teach, mentor, and share their knowledge with the next generation in order to support the projected growth and development in the Niagara region, and throughout Ontario.

Another challenge that we face is that our schools, built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, are not fully equipped to provide the technology and resources to prepare our students for the jobs and careers of tomorrow. For Niagara Catholic, this means significant investment in renovations our schools with available space to include dedicated makerspaces for technology programs to ensure we continue to meet the current and emerging needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century learners.

Niagara Catholic recognizes that this will involve a balance between financial prudence and making investments in students today for the betterment of Ontario tomorrow. To this end, we ask the Ministry to strongly consider or Capital Project Initiatives that support both the Board and Ministry goal of increasing technology learning for students. In addition, we invite both the Minister and our local MPPs to learn more about Niagara Catholic's innovative technology programs and to engage with us in a roundtable discussion about how Niagara Catholic can provide meaningful technology education to our students in this decade and for years to come.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny Di Lorenzo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair,  
On behalf of the Niagara Catholic Board of Trustees