

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

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**2020: B10**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**FROM:** Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

**DATE:** **June 19, 2020**

**SUBJECT:** **2020-21 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF)  
and Criteria for repurposing 2019-20 PPF for COVID-  
19 related supports**

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I am writing to provide you with information about the Ministry of Education's Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF) for 2020-21. These projections are being released in conjunction with the 2020-21 Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

**CONTEXT**

Ontario continues to modernize education funding so students can succeed in school, life and beyond – while ensuring investments have the greatest impact in the classroom as the province responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 25, the government released *Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 (March 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update)*. In alignment with this economic and fiscal update, these evidence-based, outcomes-focused investments directly support students in the classroom with accountable, time-limited funding. The PPF is supplemental to the GSN and will be reviewed and assessed by the ministry each year.

**TRANSFERS TO GSN**

To further support the ministry's efforts to streamline funding while also reducing administrative burden for transfer payment recipients, some programs previously funded through PPF will be transferred into the GSN beginning in 2020–21. The ministry is pleased to provide continuity of funding for these programs through the GSN funding

mechanism. Additional details regarding these funding items can be found in the 2020-21 GSN materials, including the B-memo and technical paper:

1. Mental Health Workers – \$24.8 million
2. Experiential Learning – \$12.0 million
3. Northern Supports Initiatives (NSI) – \$7.0 million
4. Curriculum and Assessment Implementation (including Indigenous-focused curriculum) – \$4.3 million
5. Executive Compensation (for increases introduced in 2017–18) – \$3.9 million

### **Future Transfers to GSN**

The ministry intends to continue reviewing opportunities for additional transfers in future years. For example, during the 2020–21 school year, the ministry will be working to review the suitability of transferring the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) PPF into the GSN.

### **TRANSFER PAYMENT ADMINISTRATION**

For the coming school year, the ministry is introducing a ministry-wide, multi-project Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) for PPF. The move toward consolidated funding is part of the government’s SMART initiative and will streamline how the government funds programs and services while reducing the administrative burden on school boards. For 2020-21, the ministry will provide one main, multi-project PPF TPA per school board. In unique circumstances, an additional TPA for a particular initiative may be issued, for example for summer programming, prior to the commencement of the 2020-21 school year. More information will be provided in the near future.

### **FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

For 2020-21, the PPF will provide over \$300 million in funding to education partners to support students.

To facilitate school boards’ budget planning for 2020-21, the ministry is confirming approximately \$117 million of PPF funding to school boards and school authorities to support ministry priorities. Within this amount:

- \$67.32 million is allocated by program and by school board in this memorandum (see Appendix A); and
- \$49.94 million has been allocated by program, with school board allocations to be confirmed later in the year.

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

<b>Key Priority</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Amount (\$M)</b>
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	\$3.98M
Math	To support Ontario's students in meeting provincial math standards	\$40.26M
Mental Health and Well-Being	To support the critical linkage between mental health and well-being and student success	\$9.67M
Special Education	To improve support for children and youth with special education needs and their families and educators	\$11.15M
Student Pathways	To support students as they transition to postsecondary destinations, including apprenticeship, college, university, and the workplace	\$23.70M
Supporting Student Potential	To support vulnerable students, including youth at risk, to stay in school, graduate and succeed	\$14.71M
System Support and Efficiencies	To provide support to help ensure that the education system is running efficiently and effectively	\$12.32M

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

**PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS**

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

**Indigenous Education**

*Emerging Indigenous Strategic Priorities (\$0.82M)*

The Emerging Indigenous Strategic Priorities funding is intended to be flexible and foster innovative responses to emerging priorities and unanticipated needs (i.e., responding to crises such as student safety, education during a community evacuation, etc.) for Indigenous students and communities in Ontario. The unique needs and systemic barriers that impact Indigenous students in Ontario require a differentiated approach. Also, this funding needs to remain flexible to respond to and leverage federal investments available to First Nations.

*Indigenous Graduation Coach (\$1.90M)*

The Indigenous Graduation Coach Program provides funding to targeted district school boards for the recruitment of Indigenous Graduation Coaches to help Indigenous students obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and successfully transition into post-secondary education, training or labour market opportunities.

*Rapid Response Northern Schools Team (\$0.80M) – 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 a temporary crisis. 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.

*Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) (\$0.265M)*

AYEP gives Grade 11 and 12 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students in 12 schools in 10 Ontario district 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 and business mentors, and funding opportunities. Students develop entrepreneurial skills and learn how to create and establish their own small business.

*Keewatin Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) / Keewatinook Okimakanak Board of Education (KOBE) (\$0.20M)*

KPDSB seconds a principal to support the capacity development of educators and administrators in partnering with 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 provincially funded schools.

**Math**

*Math Strategy (\$40.26M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Additional board and school positions and release time to support student math performance. Board-based math learning leads will support implementation of the new math curriculum and oversee board improvement planning. School-based math learning

facilitators are a targeted support for those schools demonstrating the greatest need. Release time funding is also included to support professional learning opportunities for math.

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

*Well-Being and Mental Health Bundle (\$3M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Funding to support school boards and authorities to meet local needs and priorities that promote well-being and mental health, including safe, healthy, inclusive and accepting learning environments. This funding enables school boards and authorities to support activities in their improvement and multi-year strategic plans, as well as their three-year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, and annual Action Plan for Mental Health.

*School Mental Health Ontario (SMH-ON) (\$6.5M)*

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 \$6.5M in 2020-21 to provide implementation support to all 72 district school boards through clinical expertise, evidence-based resources/practical tools for educators, and the delivery of consistent professional learning to school-based mental health clinicians.

*Funding to Support the Education Sector on Physical Activity through Cricket (\$0.175M)*

The Application-Based Cricket Program aims to increase opportunities for students to participate in cricket through curricula, intramural and interschool sports and enhance the partnerships between school boards/schools and community partners that can support the development and sustainability of cricket programs at school and in the community.

## **Special Education**

*After School Skills Development Program (\$6.1M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Provide After School Skills Development programming for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

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

This funding will support teacher participation in the Teaching Students with Communication Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder) AQ Course.

*Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) (\$1.44M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

The Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC) provides coordinated assessment, consultation and treatment services, on a multi-agency, multi-ministry basis, to children and youth with physical, psychological and educational challenges in

under-serviced rural and remote communities of Northern Ontario. This funding provides access to services from teacher diagnosticians, psychology professionals, and speech and language professionals.

*Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with ASD (\$0.374M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Continuation of funding to support the provision of dedicated space on school site for external Applied Behaviour Analyst (ABA) practitioners to provide direct service to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 11 pilot school boards.

*Supporting Students with Severe Learning Disabilities (\$1.7567M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Funding to support an intensive reading intervention pilot project in eight district school boards. Pilots were designed to enhance educators' capacity to support students in learning to read and increase the availability of supports for students with LD in their local communities.

*Transition Pilot for Students with Developmental Disabilities (\$0.478M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

Pilot to support select school boards to explore successful practices in transitioning students with developmental disabilities to work, community or postsecondary education.

## **Student Pathways**

*Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) (\$23.7M)*

The SHSM programs allow students in grades 11 and 12 to focus their learning on one of 19 economic sectors while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma and assists in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

## **Supporting Student Potential**

*Graduation Coach Program: Pilot for Black Students (\$1.57M) – School board allocations in Appendix A*

This funding is focused on addressing systemic barriers to achievement and well-being and supporting the success of Black students. The Pilot involves providing intensive, culturally-responsive support to Black students and hiring graduation coaches with connections to Black communities to act as mentors to Black students, with the assistance of school staff and board leadership.

*Transportation Supports for Children and Youth in Care (\$6.6M)*

To improve the educational outcomes and well-being of children and youth in care, funding for transportation services enables students to stay in their school of origin when their residence changes until a more natural transition time, so they have stability

at school, can focus on their learning, and maintain academic standing and graduate.

*Human Rights and Equity Advisors (\$2.4M) – 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.

*Broadening Horizons (\$0.35M)*

Deepening capacity to address equity and human rights issues in rural and northern areas.

*Demographic Data Gathering (\$2.88M)*

Collecting and analyzing demographic data to gain a clearer understanding of who Ontario's students and staff are in order to enable school and system leaders to more precisely apply resources to support student success and better-informed hiring decisions.

*Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy (\$0.925M)*

Funding to support an approach that is used to address disparities in student achievement and well-being by creating equitable and respectful learning environments that develop student responsibility, citizenship, and community engagement.

## **System Support and Efficiencies**

*Broadband Modernization Program (BMP) (\$9.322M)*

Funding to provide access to reliable, fast, secure and affordable internet services to all students and educators in all regions across Ontario – including those in rural and northern communities. The current target connectivity speed is 1 megabit per second per student or educator, in a scalable and sustainable network that can adapt to future needs following a common network architecture across Ontario.

*New Teacher Induction Program – Enhancing Teacher Development Fund (NTIP-ETD) (\$1M)*

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.

### *Excellence in Education Administration Fund (\$2M)*

The ministry has established the Excellence in Education Administration Fund program to continue its focus on efficiency and excellence in education administration. School boards will be able to apply for funding to engage an independent third-party consultant to either review operations and provide formal recommendations or to implement previously developed recommendations. Program guidelines and application forms will be available via this [link](#) soon.

## **REPURPOSING 2019-20 PPF FUNDS FOR COVID-19-RELATED SUPPORTS**

The ministry understands that new requirements have arisen due to the pandemic and as a first step, school boards are required to utilize appropriate Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding to acquire technology that may be needed to support student learning during school closures due to COVID-19. If these funds are fully committed, school boards should utilize any GSN funding flexibility available that has been identified due to the different operating circumstances during this time.

If additional COVID-19-related costs remain, beyond what can be covered from GSN allocations and flexibility, any repurposing of 2019-20 PPF funds must be done in compliance with the criteria outlined below – this repurposing is only available where the associated 2019-20 PPF Transfer Payment Agreement has not expired.

As much as possible, all PPF funds should be spent for the original purpose that is intended and articulated in signed transfer payment agreements. Where adjustments in the mode of delivery are required to continue programming (e.g., moving from in-person support to online/virtual support), school boards are encouraged to do so.

## **CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION OF REPURPOSING PPF FUNDS**

The following criteria must be used to assess the eligibility of repurposing PPF funds to support emerging COVID-19-related needs:

- Repurposing to support the learning and well-being of students and families at home
- Repurposing to support educator practice and well-being

Any repurposing that is not aligned with these criteria is not eligible.

The following requests for repurposing 2019-20 PPF funds will not be considered:

- Requests for carry-forward of 2019-20 funds into the 2020-21 school year;
- Requests to repurpose funds from the Broadband Modernization Project where the completion targets may be adversely impacted; and
- Requests to repurpose funds for a purpose not related to COVID-19 school closures.

## **NOTIFYING THE MINISTRY OF REPURPOSING 2019-20 PPF FUNDS**

All school boards and school authorities are required to notify the ministry of repurposing of 2019-20 PPF funds. When you have reviewed your funding repurposing requirements, before proceeding, please email your regular ministry program contact:

1. Identifying the name of the TPA
2. The amount of funds to be reallocated; and
3. A brief description of how the funds will be repurposed in alignment with criteria outlined above.

Your regular program contact will respond with an acknowledgement e-mail. Details on actual COVID-19 spending, including the amount and the description of how the funds were spent, should be reflected in outstanding interim/final reports.

### **NEXT STEPS**

If you require further information about the 2020-21 initiatives or about the 2019-20 criteria for repurposing funds, please contact your regular ministry program contacts or the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the program.

The ministry looks forward to continuing our strong collaboration with education partners. Working together, we are supporting Ontario's children and students to maximize their performance and well-being.

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Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister of Education

Copy: Superintendents of Business and Finance

Tony Pontes, Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Martin Bertrand, Chair, Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour and Finance Division

Jill Hughes, Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Management and Services Division

Denise Dwyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division

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