

Special Project Funding to Support French Second Language (FSL) Renewal – Guidelines and Application Template

Background

The Government of Canada, through the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction, provides funding to help the provinces / territories offset the additional costs of delivering minority language education and second language instruction at the elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels.

For the first time, the Government of Canada has created two new separate funds, one for Francophone or Anglophone minority-language education, and one for second-language instruction. The goal of Canada's Action Plan for second-language instruction is to double the proportion of secondary school graduates with a functional knowledge of their second official language by 2013. Funding will be provided to provinces / territories for strategic priorities designed to:

1. Improve core French programs
 - by renewing teaching approaches and tools used in the classroom
 - by encouraging the examination of innovative methods
2. Revitalize French immersion programs
 - with more qualified teachers and modernized teaching methods
 - with additional high quality teaching materials
 - with more exchange programs and more opportunities for bilingual students to put their skills to good use
 - with additional classrooms and programs
3. Increase the number of qualified teachers
 - with more training and professional development opportunities

In accordance with Ontario's multi-year action plan which is part of the bilateral agreement, the additional funding will be provided to school boards to develop and implement targeted actions to support Canada's Action Plan for FSL.

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Purpose

The purpose of the new funding is to give boards the ability to develop and implement long-term initiatives which will aim to:

- engage boards, parents, students, postsecondary institutions and communities in the renewal of elementary / secondary FSL programs
- increase student retention and participation in elementary / secondary FSL programs: core, extended and immersion
- increase the number of courses / programs in French, particularly at the high school level
- improve student level of proficiency in French
- enhance teacher capacity in FSL
- recognize and value the learning of French
- contribute to research on proven Ontario-specific innovative models and effective teaching and assessment practices that are replicable in other boards and schools
- inform FSL policy and program development

Projects Eligible for Funding

All projects must clearly support the goal and objectives of Canada's Action Plan. Proposals that will be considered for funding may include projects in:

- Broad-based partnerships (with other boards, universities, groups/agencies, parents, students) to develop and implement board action plans for the renewal of FSL programs
- Classroom support (e.g., consultants) and professional development programs for teachers and administrators
- High quality learning resources for students and teachers
- Program expansion: New courses / programs and sites
- New and innovative program models
- Assessment of the French language proficiency of students and teachers and recognition of program requirements and level of language proficiency attained by students and teachers based on assessment
- Authentic communication experiences for immersion students: cultural enrichment, exchanges, etc.
- Marketing and promotion of FSL programs

Expectations for all projects

1. All projects must support new and / or enhanced initiative(s); the projects may build on current initiatives / programs but must clearly show how the targeted funds will result in the expansion or enhancement of FSL programs.

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2. A clear rationale must be provided for each special project with supporting research or evidence that the proposal is based on successful practices and will increase student retention / participation rate in FSL programs and student performance in French.
3. Projects must be sustainable beyond the funding period.
4. Projects must include indicators of success, a tracking mechanism, and a strong evaluation / research component.
5. Projects must include a commitment to document and share the project model.

Additional considerations

1. Joint applications of coterminous boards or adjacent boards are strongly encouraged.
2. Boards may apply for funding for more than one project. In such cases, each project must be prepared on separate application forms but show how each is integrated in the board's FSL renewal plan.

Funding

This targeted funding is provided in addition to grants for student needs, including the FSL Grant and other education funding.

Funding will be available from 2006-2007 to 2008-2009. Projects may be funded for one to three years within that period. Multi-year funding will be subject to annual allocations and review.

Eligible expenditures for the FSL initiative may include salaries and benefits; professional fees; administrative costs (10% maximum); some direct teaching or supply; and expenses related to:

- program development, implementation, and evaluation
- the development and/or purchase of learning resources
- research
- the development and/or administration of language proficiency assessment tools for students and teachers
- marketing and promotion of FSL programs
- student exchanges, cultural activities

Rental/Purchase of essential equipment will be allowed. Funds may not be used for the maintenance, renovation, purchase or leasing of space and for regular

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student transportation. Some student transportation may be approved for student exchanges or cultural activities

Accountability and Evaluation

Projects selected for funding will include an evaluation / research component, to document what was learned and build provincial data on effective strategies, programs and practices.

Applications must include key indicators of success related to the project, including targets and timelines as appropriate.

Reporting will consist of:

1. an interim statement of expenditures at the end of January (with the exception of the 2006-07 school year); and
2. a final statement of expenditures at the end of August, along with an activity report at the end of each school year.

For multi-year projects, this reporting process will be repeated every year until project completion. Upon completion of the project, a project evaluation describing the degree to which targets were met and a final statement of expenditures for the total project will be required.

Application Process and Timelines

A separate application using the attached template must be submitted for each proposed project. If submitting two or more projects for consideration, attach a covering letter listing all project proposals in order of priority. The letter should also describe how each project is integrated in the board's FSL plan.

Proposals must be submitted by **September 29, 2006**. Questions related to the initiative may be directed to:

Louise Pharand
Tel.: (416) 325-2546
Fax: (416) 325-2575
E-mail: louise.pharand@edu.gov.on.ca

Applications will be reviewed upon submission. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by the end of October 2006. Successful applicants will be required to sign a transfer payment agreement.

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

FOR

Funding Under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority Language
Education and Second Official Language Instruction
2006/2007 to 2008/2009

Special Projects to Support the Renewal of FSL (Core, Extended and Immersion Programs)

By September 29, 2006

- Mail the completed proposal signed by your Director of Education to:
Louise Pharand, Education Officer
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch
Ministry of Education
900 Bay Street, 16th Floor, Mowat Block
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
- Submit multiple proposals together along with a covering letter listing all proposed projects by order of priority

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Information About the Applicant	
Name of the District School Board	
Name of the Director of Education	
Signature of the Director of Education and Date	
Name of the Project Contact Person	
Mailing Address	
Telephone	
Fax	
E-mail	

Information About the Project	
Title of the Project	
Brief Summary of the Project (approximately 50 words)	
Duration of the Project (start and end month and year)	
Amount Requested	

Information About Partner Board(s) (If applicable)	
Name of the District School Board	
Name of the Director of Education	
Signature of the Director of Education and Date	

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1. Background

- Provide a brief description of the current FSL program(s) or situation, focussing on the aspects related to the project.

2. Project Description

- What is the rationale for the project? Provide supporting evidence – research, literature or best practices as appropriate – that the project will be effective.
- Describe how the proposed project aligns with the goal and strategic priorities of the Canada Action Plan.
- What are the specific objectives of the project?
- Describe the specific strategies to be implemented.
- What is the implementation plan and timeline?
- If the project builds on current activity, how will the new funds result in expansion or enhancement of programs and opportunities for teachers / educators?

3. Partners

- What partners, if any, will be involved and what will be their role?

4. Expected Results and Targets

- What indicators will be used to measure the effectiveness of the project? Provide specific targets with timelines as appropriate (e.g. percentage increases in student participation and retention rate in FSL programs, satisfaction ratings and quality improvement measures).

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5. Summary of Project Budget by School Year (September 1 to August 31)

Expenditure Category	2006-07 Cost	2007-08 Cost	2008-09 Cost	Total Cost
Project Development				
Project Delivery				
Research / Evaluation				
Communications / Marketing				
Professional Development				
Purchase of Materials / Resource Development				
New Staffing				
Other				
Total Expenditures				
Applicant Financial Commitment				
Other Sources of Funding				
Total Project Funding Requested				

6. Evaluation Method

- Describe how the information / data related to the indicators will be collected (e.g. statistics, marks, test scores, interviews, surveys).

7. Plans to Share Findings, Resources and Promising Practices

- Describe the reports, materials, etc. that will be used in or result from the project and plans to make them available to other boards.

8. Long-Term Sustainability (if applicable)

- Describe how the project's partners, school and / or school board will support long-term sustainability including staffing costs.

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9. Detailed Project Budget (for each school year and total)

- List and total all expenditure items for each expenditure category. Provide positions descriptors for personnel.

Detailed Project Budget for _____ (School Year)

Expenditure Category	Item Description	Cost
Project Development		
	Sub-total	
Project Delivery		
	Sub-total	
Research / Evaluation		
	Sub-total	
Communications / Marketing		
	Sub-total	
Professional Development		
	Sub-total	
Purchase of Materials / Resource Development		
	Sub-total	
New Staffing (number and purpose of new positions)		
Other		
	Sub-total	
Total Expenditures		
Applicant's Financial Commitment		
Other Sources of Funding		
Total Project Funding Requested		