



## OVERVIEW FUNDING FOR ONTARIO CORE, EXTENDED, AND FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS

### Grants for Student Needs - The 'Funding Formula'

School boards receive 90% of their annual operating funds from the Ontario Ministry of Education. This funding is called "Grants for Student Needs (GSNs)" and is casually called the 'funding formula'. It is intended to provide a fair allocation of funds to all JK-12 students, regardless of where they live in Ontario. The money comes from property taxes collected by municipalities and it is topped up by the province from its revenue from other taxes. School boards may also receive additional funding from the Ministry for special projects and they can raise their own funds through rental fees.

GSNs are budgeted by school boards to pay for teachers, school and classroom resources, special education support and transportation, as well as many other expenses. In accordance with Section 231 of the Education Act, school boards must submit balanced budgets. A balanced budget simply means that the amount of money that a board plans to spend is equal to, or less than, the amount of money it receives from the Ontario Ministry of Education.

In 2022-23, the total projected funding for JK-12 education in Ontario is \$26.12 billion. Every spring, the Ministry of Education announces the funding for the following school year. The details are in the "Technical Paper": <https://files.ontario.ca/edu-2022-23-technical-paper-en-2022-03-15.pdf>

Ministry of Education funding documents for the upcoming and past years can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/education-funding-2022-23#section-0>

There are 2 main grants and 16 supplemental grants:

- 1. Pupil Foundation Grant** is intended to support **expenses that are common to all students**, including salaries of classroom teachers, preparation time, supply teachers, early childhood educators in kindergarten, educational assistants, teacher-librarians, guidance teachers, consultants, textbooks and learning materials, classroom computers, and broadband networks. The Pupil Foundation Grant is the largest portion of education funding. In 2022-23, an amount of \$5,011 to \$6,541 is allocated per student enrolled, depending on the grade of the student.
- 2. School Foundation Grant** is intended to fund principals, vice-principals, office staff salaries and supplies, library staff, and parent engagement via parent involvement committees and school councils. This grant is allocated by the number of students enrolled, the number of schools in particular circumstances, and various other factors.
- 3. Supplemental Grants** provide funds for items not included in the Pupil Foundation and School Foundation Grants, such as, special education, language instruction (French as a First Language, French as a Second Language, and English as a Second Language), indigenous education, facilities, transportation, school board administration, and COVID-19 recovery. These grants are allocated by a variety of factors.

## Language Grant - French as a Second Language Allocation

The French as a Second Language (FSL) Allocation is only available to English-language school boards. It supports the **additional** costs of providing core French, extended French, and French immersion programs. The FSL Allocation in 2022-23 is projected to be \$294.2 million. There is a per-student amount that factors in the type of French program, grade, and the amount of instructional time in French.

New in 2022-23 is the inclusion of Official Languages in Education Program (OLEP) funding. This funding is 'enveloped', meaning that the funds must be used for the purpose agreed to by Canada and Ontario. These funds are allocated with a base amount per school board and a supplement based on student enrolment.

French as a Second Language Allocation: 2022-23 Technical Paper, pages 55, 61-62  
<https://files.ontario.ca/edu-2022-23-technical-paper-en-2022-03-15.pdf>

### French as a Second Language (FSL) – Elementary

Funding for the elementary panel is based on students enrolled on October 31 and average daily length of the program, as per the table below.

Average daily length of program		Allocation per pupil enrolled in the program
20 – 59 minutes	Core, Grades 4 to 8	\$313.37
60 – 149 minutes	Extended, Grades 4 to 8	\$357.01
150 minutes or more	Immersion, JK/SK, Grades 1 to 8	\$399.40

### French as a Second Language (FSL) – Secondary

Funding for the secondary panel is determined according to credits as follows:

Grades	Allocation per-pupil credit – French as a subject	Allocation per-pupil credit – subjects other than French taught in French
9 and 10	\$80.70	\$132.76
11 and 12	\$106.73	\$206.98

## **COMMENTARY ON ONTARIO EDUCATION FUNDING - FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

### **Pupil Foundation Grant**

This is the main grant that is provided to support every JK-12 student, **including** French immersion/extended students.

### **Supplemental Grant - Student Transportation Grant**

For 2022-23, the Student Transportation Grant to school boards is estimated at \$1.1 billion. The student transportation grant is made up of a base amount from the prior year and adjusted based on enrolment and other factors.

This grant is intended to pay for bussing and public transit tickets which are provided to students based on local school board transportation policies. Most, but not all school boards, provide bussing to French immersion/extended programs using the same distance from home to school criteria as is used for the regular English school.

### **Language Grant - French as a Second Language Allocation**

For 2022-23, the French as a Second Language Allocation to school boards was estimated at \$294.2 million.

The Ministry of Education Technical Paper states that the FSL Allocation 'supports additional costs for providing core, extended and immersion' but does not define what that is. The FSL Allocation is not 'enveloped' which means that individual school boards have full discretion on how or even if that money is spent on French. School boards are not required to report on how they spend the FSL allocation.

What might some 'additional costs' be?

- Difference between the cost of a French textbook or learning material and the corresponding English version
- Startup funds to supply French textbooks and learning materials to new classrooms and new programs
- French performers, artists
- Exchanges for students, teachers
- Promotion for FSL programs
- Covering shortfalls in transportation funds to provide bussing to immersion/extended students

### **Federal Government Funding for FSL Programs:**

The federal government supports FSL programs by providing a grant under the Official Languages in Education Program (OLEP) Agreement with the Province of Ontario. The Agreement lays out the commitment of both levels of government to FSL programs and actions to be taken.

For 2021-22, OLEP funding to Ontario school boards is \$7.9 million. This is 'enveloped' funding which means that it must be used to support the Canada-Ontario Official Languages in Education Program and the agreed to objectives in the areas of intervention for professional learning for FSL staff and for enriching learning environments for students.

### **Canadian Parents for French (Ontario), April 2022**