

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
English-Language District School Boards

FROM: George Zegarac
Assistant Deputy Minister
Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary
Programs Division

DATE: March 13, 2006

SUBJECT: **2005-06 Funding to Support the Renewal of French Second Language (\$7.8 Million)**

As you know, the Ministry of Education's Strategic Direction consists of three key goals: improving student achievement; reducing the gaps in student achievement; and increasing public confidence in education.

I am writing to outline some details about a new application-based program to support Canada's Action Plan for French Second Language (FSL). One of the goals of Canada's Action Plan is to double the proportion of secondary school graduates with a functional knowledge of their second official language. To support the achievement of this goal, the Government of Canada will make additional contributions to Ontario for targeted measures directly linked to the investment sectors and strategic priorities set out below:

1. Improve core French programs
 - by renewing teaching approaches and tools used in the classroom
 - by encouraging the examination of innovative methods such as compact core or block scheduling
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

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Under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction, the Ministry of Education will receive about \$28.7 million for elementary and secondary FSL targeted measures over four years, from 2005-06 to 2008-09. Our plan is to allocate the federal additional FSL contribution to support board-targeted actions designed to significantly improve elementary and secondary FSL programs. This new funding is intended to favour 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

For 2005-06, the Ministry will not solicit project proposals from school boards. Rather, the \$7.8 million will be transferred to boards that choose to participate in the FSL renewal initiative. The \$7.8 million will be distributed according to the following formula: \$25,000 to each participating board plus the board's share of the total 2004-05 enrolment in elementary/secondary core French, Extended French and French Immersion programs of the participating boards. The Ministry expects that the new funding will be allocated at the board level, on top of any existing budget allocated for FSL programs.

For the purpose of this 2005-06 investment, boards may use the funds to develop longer term action plans and, where appropriate cover expenses incurred since the beginning of the 2005-06 school year for FSL measures that clearly support the goal and objectives of Canada's Action Plan.

Typical activities and initiatives that may be funded as part of that allocation include:

- 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

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- 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

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

If you are interested in participating in the renewal of FSL, please fax the attached Letter of Intent **by March 21, 2006 at 416-325-2575**. You will be required to sign a Transfer Payment Agreement by **March 31, 2006** in order to receive the 2005-06 allocation. Boards will be required to submit an interim statement of expenditures at the end of May, 2006 and a final statement of expenditures, along with an activity report at the end of August, 2006.

As part of the four-year plan for the renewal of FSL, we will solicit applications for years two, three and four early in the 2006-07 fiscal year. Questions related to this initiative may be directed to Louise Pharand at (416) 325-2546 or at <louise.pharand@edu.gov.on.ca>.

Original signed by George Zegarac

George Zegarac

Enclosure

c.c: Dominic Giroux, Assistant Deputy Minister
French-Language Education and Educational Operations Division
Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch
Regional Managers