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

**FROM:** Raymond Théberge  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division

**DATE:** January 14, 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Official Languages in Education Program: French as a Second Language (FSL) Allocations to School Boards**

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Further to the September 3, 2009 memorandum regarding initiatives under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction, I am pleased to inform you that Ontario's bilateral agreement, including an action plan, has been signed for a period of four years (2009-10 to 2012-13).

Under the agreement, approximately \$27 million will support achievements in the following outcome domains over the next four years:

- Student Participation
- Provision of Programs
- Student Performance and Enriched School Environment
- Support for Education Staff and Research

In the first two years, renewed emphasis on FSL professional learning opportunities, classroom support and French learning opportunities for students will be the main focus. This will support Ontario's goals of improving student retention in and access to FSL programs, as well as enhancing achievement in French.

Total funding for the 2009-10 school year is \$8.2 million. Funding and priority areas for the following three years will be announced on a yearly basis.

As indicated in September, the Ministry will not solicit project proposals from boards, but instead will focus on the development of an implementation plan on two provincial priority areas.

## Priority Areas

- 1.) FSL Professional Learning Opportunities and Classroom Support (\$6.8 million in the 2009-10 school year)

Funding provided under this priority area will support enhanced access to professional learning opportunities and learning resources for FSL teachers.

Eligible Activities/Expenditures are:

- additional program consultants, coordinators, coaches, special teacher assignments
- establishment of FSL Professional Learning Communities and Teaching-Learning Networks at the school, family of schools, board or regional level, including release time for teachers
- acquisition, development and sharing of learning resources for FSL teachers
- workshops for FSL teachers, including the hiring of professional services (e.g. speakers)
- conferences (within Ontario only)

Each of the 60 English-language school boards will be allocated \$25,000 as a base as well as a per-pupil amount based on the board's 2008-2009 FSL enrolment.

- 2.) French Learning Opportunities for Students (\$1.4 million in the 2009-10 school year)

Funding provided under this priority area will support increased opportunities for students in all FSL programs to improve and apply, through clear educational objectives, their oral communication skills. The aim is to encourage students to pursue the study of French when it is no longer compulsory for their program.

Eligible Activities/Expenditures are:

- French-English student exchanges in Canada
- student participation in educational visits in Canada that are not exchanges and that require students to use French
- student attendance at cultural activities during the school day, such as concerts and plays, that are performed in French (including pre- and post-classroom activities)
- school board summer French camps for FSL students
- planning, coordination and delivery of activities

Each of the 60 English-language school boards will be allocated \$5,000 as a base as well as a per-pupil amount based on the board's 2008-2009 FSL enrolment.

School boards' funding allocations for the implementation of FSL initiatives for the 2009-10 school year are available in Appendix 1. Funding allocations were designed to ensure that each board receives a reasonable base amount while recognizing the additional costs incurred by small boards.

### Purpose of Funding

This new, additional FSL investment is intended to enhance and not replace funding for existing ministry initiatives such as the New Teachers Induction Program, Literacy and Numeracy programs and Student Success. Funds are for the school year ending on August 31, 2010 and are to be used exclusively for the purposes stated.

### Process and Important Dates

Step 1: A Transfer Payment Agreement for FSL initiatives with detailed requirements will be sent to you via email by the Ministry. Please sign the Agreement and return it to the Ministry's Corporate Coordination Office (email address [tpa-edu@ontario.ca](mailto:tpa-edu@ontario.ca)) by February 5, 2010. Please note that funding cannot be distributed until the Agreement has been returned.

Step 2: A template to guide the development of your board's implementation plan for the 2009-10 school year is attached. In order to reduce the number of reports that must be submitted, the final report is a part of the implementation plan template (Appendix 2). This template will also be attached to the Agreement.

The 2009-10 implementation plan will enable Ministry staff to engage in a dialogue with your staff on a regular basis on progress in achieving desired outcomes. Please submit your implementation plan by February 26, 2010. Regional office staff may communicate with your school board contact to obtain further clarification within two weeks of receiving your completed FSL implementation plan template.

Step 3: A final report on activities and expenditures will be due on September 10, 2010.

Please submit both the implementation plan and final report to the Ministry Regional Manager in your region. Questions related to the initiatives may be directed to your local Regional Office.

Thank you for your continued support of FSL.

  
Raymond Théberge

Attachments

cc: Regional Managers