



## Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and strong partnerships with parents and the church.

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Press Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Press Release

2009-002

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| <b>Date:</b>         | March 27, 2009                              |
| <b>Topic:</b>        | Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Announcement |
| <b>Developed By:</b> | Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education        |
| <b>Release Date:</b> | March 27, 2009                              |
| <b>Instructions:</b> | For Immediate Release and Communication     |

#### **Communication:**

The Ministry of Education released information today on education funding through the Grants for Student Needs for the 2009-10 school year. Overall, education funding will increase by 3.1% next year. There will be a larger increase in the Grant for Student Needs of 4.1%, while Special Initiative funding is anticipated to remain at a comparable level to prior years.

This announcement is a cautious response given the current economic climate. Given that the provincial framework agreement provides for a 3% increase in salaries, plus other cost items, and that other non-salary costs such as utilities continue to rise, a overall 3.1% increase means that the Kenora Catholic District School Board will have to review the budget for 2009-10 carefully to ensure we can compile a balanced budget.

In particular, the Ministry has announced cost restraints in funding for Textbooks, Classroom Computers, Staff Development (Professional Development), the Declining Enrolment adjustment and Student Transportation in 2009-10. Furthermore, additional restraints have been announced for 2010-11 in Student Transportation, School Operations and Renewal, and Board Administration.

Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education comments, "Given the current economic climate, today's announcement could have been worse for our board. We are pleased that the Ministry is committed to supporting the Provincial Framework Agreement that outlines the financial requirements for our staff under the collective agreements."

Erica Bailey, Superintendent of Administrative Services comments, "The Ministry will have the financials formula available to the board later in April. As soon as these are available, we will be analyzing the impact of today's announcement on our board's financial situation to assist us in making difficult decisions for the 2009-10 budget."



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Phyllis Eikre  
Director of Education

Darryl Michaluk  
Chair of the Board

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2009-10 GRANTS FOR STUDENT NEEDS

March 26, 2009

Strong publicly funded schools are at the core of a competitive economy. That's why Ontario is increasing education funding through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for the seventh consecutive school year.

Despite declining enrolment and a challenging economic environment, Ontario continues to invest in education, and has increased its annual investment by more than \$5 billion to 34 per cent since coming to office.

### KEY FACTS

- The GSN is the annual funding provided by the Ministry of Education to school boards to support educational program and services, staffing and school facilities.
- The 2009-10 GSN is increasing to \$19.8 billion — up almost \$600 million over last year, or more than 3 per cent.
- Funding per student in 2009-10 is projected to rise to \$10,450. That means \$414 more per student – more than four per cent — compared to last year. This represents an increase of more than \$3,000 per student since 2002-03 — up 42 per cent.

### FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Funding More Staff In Schools**
  - 555 more elementary specialist teachers — in areas such as arts — to support 10 additional minutes of preparation time per week
  - 126 more Grade 4-8 teachers to reduce class sizes
  - 211 more elementary school office staff for an increased adult presence in schools
  - 593 more custodians to provide cleaner, safer schools
  - 400 more professional and para-professional staff to help at-risk students and those with special needs
  - 129 more secondary teachers to support locally-developed programs
- **Supporting Peace And Stability**
  - Improved salaries and benefits for all staff will be funded based on the recently reached four-year provincial framework agreements.
- **Keeping Up With Increased Costs and Inflation**
  - The Community Use of Schools program will receive almost two per cent in additional funding to ensure that school space for after-school activities continues to be affordable for all Ontario families.
  - Electricity, natural gas, insurance and other essentials needed to operate schools will be supported with a two per cent funding increase.
  - Student transportation costs — including fuel and maintenance — will receive a two per cent funding increase.

## **PROCESS IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Operational reviews of school boards will identify best business practices and help boards better manage school maintenance, human resources and other non-academic planning.
- Support will continue to be offered to school boards to improve student transportation management capacity.
- An Expert Panel on Capital Standards has been established. The panel is working on a manual of leading practices in school design and construction and is advising on a number of green initiatives.
- Support will be provided to school boards to improve their internal audit processes and establish audit committees with external representation to ensure funds are better managed.
- Cost saving measures will be implemented to address several areas including textbook and computer purchases, staff development, and declining enrolment.

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Michelle Despault, Minister's Office, 416-212-3747  
Patricia MacNeil, Communications Branch, 416-325-2676  
Public Inquiries, 416-325-2929 or 1-800-387-5514  
TTY 1-800-263-2892

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