

**Ministry of Education**

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

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**Instruction & Leadership Development Division**  
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**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education

**FROM:** Barry Pervin  
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)  
Instruction and Leadership Development Division  
Ministry of Education

**DATE:** June 26, 2008

**SUBJECT:** **Urban and Priority High Schools Funding**

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I am writing to invite you to submit proposals for the 2008-09 school year for funding for Urban and Priority High Schools.

New funding of \$10M for Urban and Priority High Schools was announced in the 2008-09 budget. This funding will be allocated to boards through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). The purpose of the funding is to provide additional help for select secondary schools in urban neighbourhoods facing challenges such as poverty, criminal and gang activity, lack of community resources, and student achievement issues.

The funding will help to provide needed supports in the school and to develop resources in the community that are targeted to students and their families. The initiative recognizes that ensuring all students have the opportunity and supports they need to develop to their full potential is a shared responsibility between the school and the community.

The expected outcomes of this initiative include improved school safety and increased student achievement.

This initiative is intended to provide intensive supports to a small number of urban secondary schools. In order to meet the intent of the funding the Ministry is targeting funding for this initiative to secondary schools of 500 or more students and located in urban centres with a population of 200,000 or greater. However, not all schools can be funded. Boards are invited to submit applications on behalf of up to 25% of the secondary schools on the list. A final list of 20 to 50 schools to be funded will be selected from the application process. Please see attached for the list of schools in your board and the number of schools on behalf of which you are eligible to apply.

Boards will be expected to work with community partners to identify required resources based on analysis of both the needs of students and existing services. Since increased student achievement is an important outcome of this initiative, boards are expected to include in their school Action Plans targets to increase student credit accumulation in Grades 9 and 10. Funding is also contingent on the establishment of a Steering Committee to formulate and oversee implementation of the school's Action Plan. The role and make-up of the Committee is outlined in the Application Guidelines.

Actual funding per school will be based on the budget proposed in the individual applications but will be between a minimum of \$200,000 and up to a maximum of \$500,000 per school. Minimum funding is applied in keeping with the strategy of providing intensive supports to a small number of high needs schools providing a better opportunity to leverage change/improvements.

The Application Form and Application Guidelines to assist you in completing the Application Form are attached. Please send the completed application form, by email, to Nick Laurella ([nick.laurella@ontario.ca](mailto:nick.laurella@ontario.ca)) no later than October 17, 2008. Any questions should also be addressed to Nick Laurella either via email or by phone (416) 325-7749.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support in helping all Ontario's students succeed. We trust you will give the enclosed information serious consideration.

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Barry Pervin

Enclosures