



ONTARIO PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY 2010-2011 PRO GRANT PROGRAM - BRIEFING NOTE¹

In 2006, the Ministry of Education announced a new initiative, the Ontario Parent Involvement Policy, to support and enhance parental involvement in education. In addition to new resources for parents, the Ministry has also made funds available to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and school councils to support our efforts at the regional and local levels.

Funding to School Councils for Parent Involvement Activities - \$500.00 per school council

Each school council will receive \$500.00 to be spent at its discretion on activities that support and enhance parent involvement and communication in their school community. Some examples of activities include workshops, guest speakers, translations, school barbecues or other social events, resources, including newsletters or books. Your council's cheque will be sent to the attention of the school council chair through your school office and should be received in October 2010.

Parents Reaching Out Grants for School Councils – maximum \$1,000 - Deadline: JUNE 11, 2010

This grant program offers funding to school councils for more focused projects. Grants will support school-based initiatives focused on engaging parents who may experience challenges in becoming involved in their children's education and the school due to language barriers, recent immigration, poverty, newness to Ontario's school system, or other factors. Applications may be submitted by school councils individually or in partnership with other school councils, parent or community groups. Only one application per school council may be submitted. Projects must comply with the OCDSB's policies and strategies for parent engagement. Proposals should be submitted directly to the Ministry with a copy sent to the OCDSB. More details and the application form can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html>

Parents Reaching Out Grants for Regional/Provincial Projects – maximum \$30,000 Deadline: JUNE 11, 2010

This grant program offers funding to school boards, parent organizations, non-profit organizations, volunteer-sector associations, or post-secondary institutions working in partnership with parents. The projects must be designed to enhance parent involvement on a regional or province-wide basis. School councils are not eligible to apply for this grant. If you meet the eligibility criteria, more details and the application form can be found at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/regional.html>

Funding for the OCDSB's Parent Involvement Committee

Funding will be provided to support the activities of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's Parental Involvement Committee. For more information about the mandate and activities of this committee, please visit our website at http://www.ocdsb.ca/pc_pi_parental_involvement_committee.asp

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board encourages all school councils, parent and community organizations to consider these grants and apply for funding. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cheryle Watson, Policy Analyst, at cheryle.watson@ocdsb.ca or 613-596-8253.

¹ This Briefing Note has been compiled for your reference. **PLEASE ENSURE TO REVIEW THE DETAILED INFORMATION, INCLUDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES, ON THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S PRO GRANTS ON LINE AT: [HTTP://WWW.EDU.GOV.ON.CA/ENG/PARENTS/REACHING.HTML](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html)**

	PARENTS REACHING OUT GRANTS FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS
Amount of funding	Maximum of \$1,000 per school council. Maximum of 1 proposal per school council.
Objectives & guidelines	<p>To encourage parents' involvement in their children's education, and support student learning.</p> <p>To support school-based initiatives to reach parents who face barriers to becoming involved in their child's education or school under the following categories:</p> <p><i><u>Communication</u> – could include translation of documents into other languages, providing parents with information related to curriculum or other school-based initiatives;</i></p> <p><i><u>Geography</u> – reaching parents living in a larger geographic area;</i></p> <p><i><u>Parents New to the System</u> – parents who have a child in school for the first time or have moved into the area;</i></p> <p><i><u>Other</u> – other initiatives that are designed to inform or engage parents in their child's achievement and overcome barriers to involvement.</i></p> <p>To read more about previously approved school council project grants and successful projects, please link to: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html</p>
Who can apply for the funding	School councils individually; School councils in partnership with other school councils in the same board; or School councils in partnership with other groups in the school or in the community.
Evaluation criteria	<p>Evaluated through a provincial review process through the Ministry's Parent Engagement Office. Projects must comply with the regulations, by-laws, policies and guidelines of the OCDSB and school council. There is no appeal process.</p> <p>Special consideration will be given to eligible projects from school councils that did not receive funding for 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.</p>
How to submit a proposal	<p>School councils must pass a motion to approve the proposal.</p> <p>School councils must complete and submit the project proposal online through the Ministry's Parent Engagement page on its website. A copy is to be (i) forwarded to the Director of Education/Secretary of the Board, OCDSB (Attention: Cheryle Watson), (ii) placed in the school council file, and (iii) provided to the principal. After completing the proposal online, the school council chair and principal must complete and sign the Declaration, which is mailed to the Parent Engagement Office, Toronto, by June 30, 2010.</p>
Deadlines	<p><u>June 11/10</u>–Project application must be submitted (online) with copies distributed as indicated above.</p> <p><u>June 30/10</u> – Originally signed Declaration must be mailed to the Parent Engagement Office, Toronto, ON.</p> <p><u>June 30/11</u>–Project must be completed and all project funds must be spent.</p> <p><u>August 31/11</u>–Expense and Project Report Back Form must be submitted through the Ministry's online process. A copy must be (i) forwarded to the OCDSB, Attention: Cheryle Watson (with expense receipts), (ii) placed on the school council file, and (iii) provided to the principal.</p>

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	PARENTS REACHING OUT GRANTS FOR REGIONAL/PROVINCIAL PROJECTS
Amount of funding	Maximum of \$30,000 per school board/parent organization
Objectives & guidelines	<p>To encourage parents' involvement in their children's education, and support student learning.</p> <p>To enhance parent involvement on a regional or province-wide basis, under at least one of the following categories:</p> <p><i>Parents as partners</i>, examples include: school council training; training of teachers, principals and school staff on the benefits of and strategies for involving parents and the community in education; research projects where parents and stakeholders (e.g. teachers, high-school students) work together with academic researchers to find solutions to an education-related issue</p> <p><i>Welcoming school board and school environment for all parents</i>, examples include: creating or translating materials in multiple languages to keep parents informed; workshops for district and school staff on how to remove barriers for parents; tools to help school staff recruit and recognize volunteers</p> <p><i>Skill-building opportunities for parents</i>, examples include: projects that provide information; ideas and activities to families about helping students learn and succeed at school, training workshops for school volunteers; leadership development for parents</p>
Who can apply for the funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent groups operating in Ontario; • Non-profit organizations operating in Ontario; • School boards operating in Ontario; • Post-secondary institutions in Ontario. <p>Priority will be given to parent-led projects. Other organizations can apply as long as they partner with parents.</p>
Evaluation criteria	<p>The proposals will be evaluated with the following criteria and availability of funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves parents and the community and supports student success; • Is led by parents or is carried out in partnership with a parent group; • Involves parents and can be adapted to other regions; • Applicants show how their project fits into at least one of the three categories; • Has the potential to reach a large number of parents; • Meets a demonstrated need; • Describes the expected results; and • A plan is in place for evaluating the project and its results.
How to submit a proposal	<p>Applications must be completed and submitted online through the Ministry's website.</p> <p>If the application is approved, a contract will be provided for execution before funds are disbursed.</p>
Deadlines	<p><u>June 11/10</u>–Project applications must be submitted (online).</p> <p><u>June 30/11</u>–Project must be completed and project funds must be spent.</p> <p><u>August 31/11</u>–Expense and Project Report Back Form must be submitted through the Ministry's online process. Projects that last for longer periods of time can still be submitted; however, the Ministry will only fund a project lasting a specific period of time leading to specific results.</p>

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May 11, 2010