

Parents Reaching Out Grants 2021-22

Frequently Asked Question

What is the purpose of PRO Grants?

- Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants fund school boards to work with parents to support projects and initiatives which remove barriers at the local level that prevent parents from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning and educational progress.

Who is eligible for the funding?

- School boards are funded to administer the PRO Grants program in collaboration with their Parent Involvement Committees (PICs) and are encouraged to work with their Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), board's Equity and Access body, school councils, and community organizations to identify projects.

What is the deadline to spend the funding?

- Projects must be carried out between September 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. Any funds not spent by June 30, 2022 must be returned to the ministry.

When is the Final Report due?

- A final report is to be completed in collaboration with the PIC using the provided final report template and submitted to PRO@ontario.ca on or before July 15, 2022. The Recipient is encouraged to submit their final report as soon as their projects are complete.

How can parent groups have equitable access to the PRO Grants funding and information about projects funded by PRO Grants?

- Boards are required to work collaboratively with their respective PICs and are encouraged to work with their Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), board's Equity and Access body, school councils, and community organizations to deliver their PRO Grants that meet the local needs of parents. Boards will use their established communication tools and mechanisms to ensure all parent groups are aware of the funding, guidelines and eligible projects.

What projects are eligible for PRO Grants funding?

- Projects that demonstrate parent input on how schools can improve in at least one of the following areas are eligible for funding:
 - Addressing social inclusion and racism specifically anti-Asian, anti-Black, and anti-Indigenous discrimination and bias and other prejudices toward racialized

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- and marginalized groups as well as inequities and systemic barriers faced by these designated groups.
- Creating a safe and welcoming environment
- Demonstrating respect for parents as valued partners within the education system regarding decisions about their child's education
- Enhancing communication with teachers
- Informing parents about the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum and supporting resources.
- Projects must be initiated by parents through communication with their PIC, a school council or other parent groups in the community.

What are ineligible expenses for PRO Grants funding?

- The ineligible expenses for PRO Grants for the 2021-22 school year includes:
 - Activities that took place prior to September 1, 2021
 - Payment to school board staff or volunteers including salaries, honoraria, gifts
 - Refreshments exceeding 10% of the approved funding
 - Out-of-province travel
 - Debts or financial losses that result from a project
 - Fundraising events
 - Central administration expenses exceeding 10% of the budget.

What are some examples of projects funded with PRO Grants?

- Examples shared by PICs and Board Leads from the 2020-21 school year include but were not limited to:
 - Anti-Black Racism, anti-Indigenous and anti-oppression initiatives (e.g., bridges out of poverty event);
 - Virtual parent/caregiver engagement supports;
 - Enhanced multi-lingual supports;
 - Translation of school materials;
 - Mental health and well-being (e.g. family music nights);
 - Parent portal improvement;
 - Physical health and wellness (e.g. virtual family yoga nights);
 - Technology support;
 - Providing targeted resources to meet specific parent needs so parents can be resilient;
 - Special education supports;
 - STEM (e.g. youtube capsules focused on science and numeracy);
 - Online learning software (e.g. Google classroom tutorials);
 - Online safety; and,
 - Self-regulation (e.g. virtual learning sessions for families).

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Can PRO Grants funding be repurposed to address the impacts of COVID-19 or can it be carried forward to the next school year?

- The 2020-21 PRO Grants allocation cannot be repurposed or carried forward to the next fiscal year.

How can this funding address anti-racism and equity issues?

PRO Grants continues to support that remove barriers to parent engagement. This funding can be used as a tool to facilitate equitable outcomes for marginalized parents. Projects funded could include identifying and removing institutional biases and systemic barriers in order to allow participation of all parents in their children's schools, with the goal of supporting student learning and helping to close the achievement gap.

How can we get in touch if we have questions about PRO Grants?

- Questions can be sent to PRO@Ontario.ca.