



## MEMORANDUM

**Memo No. 19-046**

**TO:** Trustees  
Student Trustees

**FROM:** Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board  
Mike Carson, Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** 19 March 2019

**RE:** **Ministry of Education Memo 2019:B08**  
**Preliminary Analysis of Financial Impact**

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The District receives the majority of government funding from the Ministry of Education in the form of grants for student needs (GSNs). The GSNs are determined annually based primarily on enrolment, student needs and school attributes. They reflect Ministry-determined cost benchmarks with the funding being used to support student needs, the operation of District schools and buildings, and overall administrative needs. GSN announcements are normally made annually in late March.

On March 15, 2019, the Minister of Education announced changes to education funding and policies, and released Memo 2019:B08 which provided additional, although incomplete, details. The changes that are planned will have a significant impact on the funding received by the District. From a funding perspective, the changes include:

- A reduction in the early childhood educators Kindergarten classroom staffing ratio change from 1.14 FTE to 1.0 FTE;
- An increase in the average class size of grades 4 to 8 (from 23.84 to 24.5 ADE);
- An increase in the average class size of grades 9 to 12 (from 22.0 to 28.0 ADE);
- Elimination of the secondary programming amount in the Pupil Foundation Grant which has been used to support an estimated 22.0 FTE;
- Removal of Local Priorities funding which was used to support close to 87.0 FTE across the system;
- Changes to the school operating and renewal benchmarks that will be phased-in over five years to reflect changes in secondary class sizes; and
- New top-up funding to offset costs relating to attrition protection for teachers who may be impacted by the changes to class sizes.

Staff has reviewed the information in the B memo and has also participated in two teleconferences to obtain a better understanding of the planned changes including the effect on funding. The analysis attached as Appendix A presents each Ministry initiative and, where quantifiable, staff's preliminary assessment of the change in funding that may result.

The analysis shows significant net revenue reductions will result in 2019-2020; however; it is also important to highlight that additional information is required from the Ministry before a comprehensive assessment of funding changes can be prepared. For example, the Ministry has confirmed that changes to the School Facility and Renewal Operating Grant will only be available with the release of the 2019-2020 Technical Paper. Similarly, additional detail on how the new attrition protection top-up funding will be administered is required as this will offset funding reductions relating to changes in class sizes. Again, this information will only be available at a later date.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Gardner at [kevin.gardner@ocdsb.ca](mailto:kevin.gardner@ocdsb.ca) or at 613-596-8211, extension 8350.

Attach

cc     Senior Staff  
         Manager of Board Services  
         Manager of Financial Services  
         Corporate Records