# Toronto District School Board Logo

# Update on Education Program Other Grants for 2018-2019

**To:** Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

**Date:** 23 January, 2019

**Report No.:** 01-19-3565

## Strategic Directions

* Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve that permits continue to be issued to the organizations that fall under the Community Use of Schools - Priority Schools Initiative following the parameters outlined in this report.

## Context

On 14 December 2018 the Ministry of Education released a memorandum outlining changes to the Education Program Other (EPO) grants for the 2018-19 school year. The changes ranged from continued funding, reduced funding or discontinued programs. Immediately after the announcement staff contacted the Ministry staff to seek clarity around the information contained in the memorandum and its attachments. During the month of December staff sent out two updates to trustees, concerning the impact of the announcement on Toronto District School Board (TDSB) EPOs based on the information received and further funding announcements. Appendix A outlines the most current information available on the EPOs and includes four tables:

* Table 1: Grants Cancelled in 2018-19 - This table outlines that there are no transfer payment agreements for these grants;
* Table 2: Grants Reduced in 2018-19 - This table indicates that the TDSB has been notified by the Ministry that these grants will be reduced;
* Table 3: Grants Continued in 2018-19 - This table indicates that the Ministry has confirmed that these grants will continue for 2018-19. This list identifies the programs where the TDSB has received a confirmation and/or a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry; and
* Table 4: Grants Announced in March 2018 where no TPA has been issued.

Staff continues to receive additional information weekly from the Ministry. Should any new significant information become available, staff will update the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, as necessary.

Staff was notified last week of a change to the Community Use of Schools - Priority Schools Initiative EPO. The grant subsidizes school boards to offer free permitting for use of schools in 77 schools that make-up the Priority Schools List  (low socio-economic) included in Appendix B. The announced change was a reduction of the grant from $2,618,000 to $1,636,250, net change of $981,750.  The reduction of funding will have an impact on the overall financial position of the board.  However, due to the mid-year funding announcement staffing levels have already been established for the year for both caretaking and maintenance and therefore are fixed for the balance of the fiscal year.

Permits for the school year, excluding March Break, have already been released to permit holders.  The reduction in funding approximately represents those permits that would be released during the March Break and summer.  Operating practice would be to release the March Break permits by the end of January 2019.  Summer permits are typically released in May 2019.

In recognition of the value that these permits have for the community, staff are recommending that these permits continue as planned.  The rationale being that since the staffing costs are already committed that no additional costs will be incurred to allow a majority of these permits to be utilized.  However, no new permits will be issued that increase the board’s overall cost.

The Community Use of School grant reduction follows on the heels of grant cancellation to a number of programs specially geared to serve at risk communities and at risk young people. Just before the holidays the Ministry announced the cancellation of grants, for example:

* Focus on Youth after school program which provides employment and youth opportunities  for youth in the city’s priority neighborhoods;
* Re-engagement 12-12 program that encourages students that have left school to return to complete diploma graduation requirements; and
* Tutors in the Classroom program which paid university and college students to help tutor students struggling in school.

In addition, the Ministry has made no decision as to the continued funding for the significant Focus on Youth Summer Program. Last year funding for this program allowed the TDSB to hire and train more than 600 youth to work alongside community agencies that serve some of the city’s most at-risk and vulnerable young people. Typically by this time in the year, the TDSB would already have started the recruitment process for this program. To date there is no decision from the Ministry on whether this program will receive funds.

## Action Plan and Associated Timeline

As Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs) are released and signed, the appropriate program leads are informed and budgets allocated.

## Resource Implications

Not applicable.

## Communications Considerations

Not applicable.

## Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Not applicable.

## Appendices

* Appendix A: Current Information Available on the Education Program Other Grants
* Appendix B: Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) Schools

### From

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