

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FUNDING FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

SCHOOL COUNCILS ALLOCATION

PURPOSE OF ALLOCATION (as per signed agreement with TDSB)

This allocation, \$500 per school, allows schools councils to support local communication with parents and engagement efforts in order to promote greater and more diverse parent involvement in the school, the council and its activities. This allocation will be on top of any existing allocation to school councils.

FUNDED PERIOD

School year 2005-06 ending August 31, 2006. Projects may take place during the summer 2006

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- This allocation has been transferred to the school council account for each school;
- School councils will approve all expenditures from this allocation;
- This allocation may be used to offset school council expenditures already incurred since September 2005;
- School councils are expected to report through the principal on how these funds were used for the intended purposes. Schools will be expected to track all expenditures for purposes of this report;
- The Board is required to report to the Ministry of Education by September 30 on how these grants were used;
- All funds unspent will be returned to the Ministry of Education.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

(a) Organize a Seminar or Forum Open To All Parents

- Role of your school council;
- How to get more involved in your school;
- Getting the Most out of Parent Teacher Interviews;
- Teachers and Parents Working Together;
- A Parenting or Family literacy Workshop(s);
- School Volunteering Can be Fun;
- 101 Ways to Help Your Child Succeed in School;
- Special topics of interest to parents of secondary students;
- Etc.

(b) Organize Planning Meetings for Your Council

- Reviewing The Year: What Worked; What Didn't;
- Team-building workshop;
- Setting priorities for next year;
- Develop a plan for next year's school council's elections;
- A volunteer recruitment and management plan;
- Setting an action plan for engaging uninvolved parents;
- Building school partnerships with community agencies;
- Developing a diverse list of community mentors or speakers;
- Conflict resolution techniques for the council;
- An education panel featuring the Trustee, Councillor, MPP (open to all)
- Etc;

(c) Outreach Strategies

- A widely-advertised social event (with brunch/supper) that brings staff and parents together;
- A school community Open House displaying school and community programs and activities;
- Work with a recognized community agency to organize an educational/social event at a community centre;
- Production and distribution of Information packages (translated) about the school and community;
- Production and distribution of school council annual report;
- Convene meetings of parents by language to discuss school programs or school council activities and receive input, using interpreters to phone parents;
- Free Friday Nite Family Movies or Discussion Groups at the school;
- Acquire List Serve software for communication with parents;
- Set-up and maintain a school council website;
- Develop and distribute parent survey in translation about what they want to see in their school and priorities for their school council;
- Organize a community forum on current issues affecting young people face/parenting skills etc;.
- Develop a resource pool of parents who want to supervise a homework club;
- Etc.

TYPES OF EXPENDITURES

- Cost of producing and printing information and promotional materials;
- Payment of translators and interpreters;
- Payment to child-minders for meetings;
- Cost of refreshments for meetings and events;
- Cost of honoraria or gift certificates for resource people;
- Cost of using hiring interpreters;
- Cost of additional clerical or special technical support required;
- Other fees and payments for services required.