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CPCO Makes Recommendations on Education Funding

By Lou Rocha, Executive Director

In November 2006, the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario submitted a position paper to the Minister of Education on education funding. The following recommendations were based on research and the results of a CPCO membership survey. They reflect the impact of the funding model on the Catholic schools of Ontario.

RECOMMENDATIONS

General

1. That the Ministry of Education increase funding for substitute teachers in both elementary and secondary schools.
2. That the Ministry of Education reinstate adequate funding for qualified teacher-librarians and library resources.
3. That the Ministry of Education create a single calendar for all initiatives in order to avoid overlap in implementation and reporting phases of each initiative.
4. That the Ministry of Education allow school boards to implement initiatives on a schedule that respects the other needs of each school district.
5. That the Ministry of Education streamline the reporting procedures for all initiatives to meet the minimum accountability requirements.

Special Education

6. That the Ministry of Education provides funding for early intervention programs to assist unidentified students who are not meeting grade level expectations in the curriculum.
7. That the Ministry increase funding for student services to provide psychological and educational assessments for students with learning needs.
8. That the Ministry provide additional funding to reduce class sizes where high-risk students are integrated.
9. That the Ministry of Education increase the benchmarks in the SEPPA allocation to a level that meets the actual needs of school boards.

10. That the Ministry of Education create a framework for assessing and funding the resources required to support students with intensive behavioural and mental health needs.
11. That the Ministry of Education create a five-year funding planning for Special Education that assists school boards in their planning for programs, services and staffing.

Class Size

12. That the Ministry of Education, in consultation with stakeholders, review the impact of the Primary Class Size initiative before proceeding to the next implementation targets for 2007-08.
13. That the Ministry of Education direct school boards, principals associations and teacher unions to creative flexibility in collective agreements with regard to class size.
14. That the Ministry of Education provide additional funding to reduce class sizes in the junior and intermediate divisions.

Technology

15. That the Ministry of Education in collaboration with school boards, professional associations and the private sector, create a joint task force to design and fund a three-year plan to increase human and capital assets in the field of educational technology.
16. That the Ministries of Education and Finance, in collaboration with the private sector, implement a tax-incentive system that will encourage businesses to

support educational technology through the sharing and sponsorship of human resources and capital equipment.

17. That the Ministry of Education, together with the Council of Ministers of Education for Canada, support the continuation of federal sponsorship for the Computers for Schools Program.

The Arts

18. That the Ministry of Education create and fund an initiative to increase the music education programs in elementary and secondary schools over the next three years.
19. That the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, develop a recruitment plan to increase the number of music teachers over the next five years.

School Leadership

20. That a full-time principal, with no teaching assignment, be appointed to every school in Ontario.
21. That all vice-principals be assigned full-time administrative duties.
22. That the Ministry of Education, school boards and provincial principal organizations develop new models for allocating vice-principals.
23. That a mentoring program for newly appointed principals and vice-principals be established with funding provided for release time, mentors and professional development.
24. That the Ministry of Education work with the provincial principal organizations to establish incentives for retention of principals and vice-principals.

Supervision of Students

25. That the Ministry of Education in collaboration with school boards and provincial associations, establish a framework for levels of effective supervision to ensure student safety.
26. That the Ministry of Education provide additional funding for school boards to provide the established levels of supervision to ensure student safety.

School Clerical Staff

27. That the Ministry of Education establish a framework for allocating school clerical staff in consultation with school boards, staff and communities.
28. That the Ministry of Education fund school boards to provide school clerical staff as required by a clerical staffing framework.
29. That the Ministry of Education provide sufficient funding to provide information technology training and associated replacement costs for school clerical staff as part of the implementation of all Ministry initiatives.

Board Administration

30. That the Ministry of Education put in abeyance the requirement to reduce board administration costs to 15% of the board budget.
31. That the Ministry of Education and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education create a task force to establish guidelines for school board administration.

Facilities

32. That the Ministry of Education provide adequate funding for repairs, renewal and security of all operational school sites within the next two fiscal years.
33. That the Ministry of Education conducts a regular review of school maintenance and repair services in school boards.

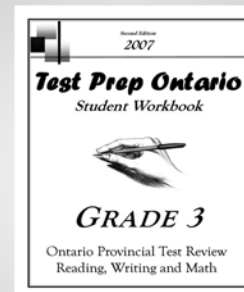
Transportation

34. That the Ministry of Education provide sufficient funding for transportation that allows school boards to schedule the school day in the best interest of student learning.
35. That the Ministry of Education provide sufficient funding for transportation that limits elementary ride time to 30 minutes and secondary ride time to 60 minutes.
36. That the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with school boards and stakeholders, develop an adequate funding formula for transporting students with special needs.
37. That the Ministry of Education provide adequate funding for transporting students engaged in co-curricular experiences.

This paper is available in its entirety on the CPCO website at <http://www.cpco.on.ca/news/positionpaper.aspx>.

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