

Ministry of Education

Education Finance Office
Education Labour and Finance
Division

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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2020: B04

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Doreen Lamarche
Executive Director
Education Finance Office

DATE: March 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Budget Planning Information for 2020-21

As school boards begin budget planning for the 2020-21 school year, I am writing to share staffing planning assumptions for the secondary panel. This information is being provided now because the ministry is aware that school boards are currently beginning their staff planning processes and have many staffing planning requirements and deadlines. Therefore, certainty for the year ahead is required despite ongoing bargaining where class size may continue to be a topic of discussion.

I am writing to share the government's proposal for a secondary average class size of 23. As such I am confirming that school boards should plan for a funded maximum secondary average class size of 23 for the 2020-21 school year.

School boards are encouraged to work closely with the ministry as staffing planning processes begin due to continued interplay with the teacher job protection fund and local class size restrictions, where applicable. As you are aware, the teacher job protection fund was introduced in 2019-20 and it will continue into 2020-21. With this fund, incremental changes to actual class sizes can be achieved through attrition and voluntary leaves without the need for any classroom teacher layoffs. School boards are also reminded to observe their legal

obligations regardless of changes to the funding formula, including those relating to prior collective agreements.

The government remains steadfast in its commitment to working constructively with our bargaining partners in good faith to reach agreements that are fair and reasonable. As central agreements are reached, the Ministry will provide further information on any consequential changes that may be proposed to school board funding. As always, the ministry looks forward to working closely with you in the weeks and months to come to facilitate planning for the next school year.

Original signed by

Doreen Lamarche
Executive Director
Education Finance Office

c. Chairs of Ontario District School Boards
School Business Officials