

The Role of Special Education Funding in Tuition Agreement

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What is a Tuition Agreement

Tuition Agreement is an Education service agreement.

- ▶ Protect the parties
- ▶ Avoid misunderstanding
- ▶ Address payment terms

The agreement consist of four main elements

- ▶ Financial responsibilities
- ▶ Program & Services
- ▶ Relationships & Communication
- ▶ Accountability

Tuition Fees

- ▶ The Ministry is required to file an annually a fee regulation which outlines the formulas for calculating the tuition fee amount that Boards can charge. This regulation has
 - ▶ Tuition fee Per Pupil Amount (Base Tuition Fee)
 - ▶ Additional Programs, Services or Equipment
 - ▶ Pupil Accommodation Charge

This calculation differs from one board to another due to a set of variables assigned.



			65,020	52,500	57,000
			\$ 222,528,940	\$ 128,492,291	\$ 351,021,231
Special Education Allocation					
SEPPA - JK to Gr. 3	906.65	20,336.00	18,437,634		18,437,634
SEPPA - Gr. 4 to 8	696.39	25,216.95	17,560,832		17,560,832
SEPPA - Gr. 9 to 12	468.70	22,569.35		10,578,254	10,578,254
Special Education Equipment			1,419,603	703,347	2,122,950
Behavioural Expertise			184,851	91,585	276,436
High Needs			23,082,488	11,436,290	34,518,778
			\$ 60,685,408	\$ 22,809,476	\$ 83,494,884
Language Allocation					
French as a Second Language			8,033,526	861,935	8,895,461
English as a Second Language			3,370,948	1,411,171	4,782,119
			\$ 11,404,474	\$ 2,273,106	\$ 13,677,580
Other Allocations					
Learning Opportunities			10,105,540	5,704,529	15,810,069
Teacher Qualifications & Experience			30,391,657	22,872,908	53,264,565
New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)			350,809	74,382	425,191
Compensation Restraint Savings			(206,206)	(102,166)	(308,372)
Administration and Governance			11,406,194	5,663,734	17,069,928
School Operations			40,508,644	28,895,799	69,404,443
Non-Teaching Staff-Cost Adjustment			1,009,484	500,152	1,509,636
Declining Enrolment Adjustment			1,440,063	713,483	2,153,546
School Foundation			30,958,193	17,610,585	48,568,778
Adjustment for School Foundation			1,764,390	(1,764,390)	-
First Nation, Metis & Inuit Education Supplemental			470,701	264,766	735,467
Rural and Small Community			9,589	4,751	14,340
Safe Schools			838,195	1,198,607	2,036,802
			129,047,253	81,637,140	210,684,393
TOTAL PROVINCIAL GRANTS INCLUDED IN TUITION FEE			\$ 423,666,075	\$ 235,212,013	\$ 658,878,088

Financial

Enrollment Eligibility Clauses

- ▶ Student list authorized process with payment schedules. E.g. count dates, billing requirements
- ▶ List of schools students can attend
- ▶ Access to Special Education Placements – Board to provide spaces for special education placements from First Nation schools where such placement meets the needs of the student as determined and agreed upon by the Board and the First Nation.

Responsibility of Fees Clauses

- ▶ Base tuition fee indicating First Nation payment to Board as per Ministry's regulation
- ▶ Identifies a tuition payment process
- ▶ Payment dates & penalties
- ▶ Adjustment of the tuition fee due to a labour dispute which result in a disruption of services.

Programs & Services

Curriculum & Program of Studies Clauses

- ▶ Access to all board programs and supports offered by the Board that all other students receive.
- ▶ Additional Special Education services required. E.g. Assessment & program supports required for the students and First Nation schools
- ▶ Any other additional services negotiated to meet the needs of the students.

Board & Community Relations Clauses

- ▶ Parent Participation – ongoing communication protocol
- ▶ Parent/Teacher Interviews – Community-based interview sessions
- ▶ School Visits
- ▶ Ongoing parent consultation on any changes their child(ren) program.

Programs & Services

First Nations Representation Clauses

- ▶ Trustee to the Board
- ▶ Liaison representatives to the Board
- ▶ First Nation Advisory Committee Representation
- ▶ Special Education Advisory Committee Representation

First Nation Staffing Clauses

- ▶ Recruitment of First Nation people
- ▶ Hiring of First Nation staffing to the Board
- ▶ Qualifications requirements for staffing
- ▶ Student Support Workers designation to First Nation students



Programs & Services

Professional Development Clauses

- ▶ First Nations schools access to PD training, curriculum resources, program services, purchasing & warehouse services and special education liaison support.
- ▶ Principal representation to the Board's network of schools.
- ▶ In-service training to Board's teachers, principals and support staff on First Nations culture and learning ways.

Native Language & Culture Program Clauses

- ▶ Collaboration with First Nations to develop and implement a First Nation perspective into existing curriculum and programs
- ▶ First Nation consultation on any planning, development & implementation of education programs to meet the needs of First Nation students.
- ▶ Board to partner with First Nations to provide resource materials and staff to assist in the Native programming.

Programs & Services

Transition Clauses

- ▶ Collaboration to work together to develop a transition program for First Nation students transferring from a First Nation school to the Board's schools.
- ▶ First Nation schools to provide student assessment data (pending parent's consent) to aid in the transition to the Board's schools. E.g. EQAO, special education assessments, programs, services and equipment.

Special Education Programs, Services & Equipment Clauses

- ▶ Identifies the special education referral process indicating, IPRC outcomes, IEP, parent consent, access to assessment data.

Transportation

- ▶ Board agrees to provide transportation to First Nation students where there are existing routes

OR

- ▶ First Nations to provide transportation

OR

- ▶ First Nations provides payment to the Board for transportation

Reporting

- ▶ Board's Calculation of Tuition fees schedule
- ▶ Tuition Fee Invoices
- ▶ Boards' Final audited financial report
- ▶ Annual summary on funds provided to the Board resulting from the tuition agreement
- ▶ Program Summary – Special Education program component
- ▶ First Nations additional programs, services, equipment summary & costs report
- ▶ Board's Annual Special Education Plan
- ▶ Access and collection of collective student data. E.g. components, parental consent
- ▶ Native Advisory Committee Minutes & Recommendations
- ▶ Annual Meetings with First Nations
- ▶ Access to Board's policies

Tuition Agreement-Addendums

Dispute mechanism

Addendums

- ▶ Special Education Personnel Job Descriptions
- ▶ Special Education Protocol relationship with First Nation and schools.
- ▶ Native Trustee
- ▶ Native Advisory Committee

Other

- ▶ Data sharing protocol
- ▶ Special education services agreement

Ministry of Education – Special Education

- ▶ Foundation Grant
- ▶ Special Education Grant
 - ▶ Special Education Per-Pupil Amount
 - ▶ Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (previously High Needs Amount)
 - ▶ Special Education Amount
 - ▶ Special Incidence Portion
 - ▶ Behaviour Expertise Amount
 - ▶ Facilities Amount

Special Education Per-Pupil (SEPPA)

To provide funding for additional assistance to the majority of students with special education . This is based on the total enrolment.

- ▶ \$949.87 per JK to Grade 3 student
- ▶ \$729.62 per Grade 4 to 8 student
- ▶ \$481.87 per Grade 9-12 student

Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA)

- ▶ Formerly known as the High Needs Amount
- ▶ Additional funding provided to school boards based on their ability to respond to student special needs. It is to help stabilize school board funding and mitigate projected enrolment declines and to ensure greater fairness & equity. It consist of three elements
 - ▶ Historical enrolment
 - ▶ Measures of Variability
 - ▶ Special Education Statistical Prediction Model
 - ▶ Base Amount for Collaboration & Integration

Special Equipment Amount (SEA)

- ▶ SEA Per-Pupil Amount
 - ▶ Each school board receives a base amount of \$10,000
 - ▶ An amount based on the board's average daily enrolment (ADE)
 - ▶ It is used to purchase computers, software, support furniture, as identified for use by students with special education needs. Also for staff training, equipment set-up, maintenance and repairs
- ▶ SEA Claims-Based Amount
 - ▶ To purchase non-computer equipment e.g. sensory or hearing support equipment, personal care support and physical assist support equipment
 - ▶ A claims process must be submitted with an \$800 deductible

Special Incident Portion (SIP)

- ▶ For students who require more than two full-time staff to address the health and safety needs of the student who have extraordinarily high needs related to their disability and/or exceptionalities and the safety of all students in the school.
- ▶ A SIP claim process must be submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA)

- ▶ Funding to the Board to hire Board-level Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) expertise professionals. This is to support students with Autism and other special needs students.
- ▶ The ABA experts supports principals, teachers, educators and other staff in providing ABA coaching, training and resources, facilitating collaboration among service providers, parents and schools.
- ▶ It is formula-based $\$85,027$ per school board $+(2.85 \times ADE)$

Facilities Amount (FA)

- ▶ Funding to school board to provide education programs in care and/or treatment centres, and in custody and correctional facilities.
- ▶ It is for facilities who have a MOU between the school board and the facility. E.g. hospitals, etc.

Special Incidence Portion: (SIP)

- ▶ Boards can apply for SIP funding for staff support for students who require more than two full time staff to provide intensive support for the health and safety for the student, other students and/or staff. This additional supports may be behavioural assistants, teachers' assistants, educational assistants, child and youth workers, health/personal care assistant.
- ▶ A grant up to \$27,000 per full time student per year.
- ▶ A health and/or safety application must be submitted to the Ministry along with
 - ▶ Health/Safety Checklist
 - ▶ Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Special Incidence Portion (SIP)

- ▶ A staff support formula calculation form
- ▶ Documentation on the student's need for the staff support which must:
 - ▶ connect to program and the student's report card,
 - ▶ reflect the student's assessment data on areas of strengths, needs, accommodation and program.
 - ▶ Provide measurable learning expectations related to student and the curriculum for modified subjects/courses, and/or alternative skills
 - ▶ Supports the student use of any special education equipment required
 - ▶ Identify Board-paid staff support demonstrated in the staff support timetable.

Special Equipment Amount: Claim-based

- ▶ Boards are required maintain documentation for the SEA and are subject for review by the Ministry
 - ▶ Board are required to complete a claim form.
 - ▶ assessment by a qualified professional. It must have a description on the condition the equipment recommended to how it addresses the student's strengths and needs.
 - ▶ evidence of proof of purchase such as a copy of a paid invoice.
 - ▶ a copy of the student's current Individual Education Plan (IEP) that provides evidence on the use of the equipment which must align with the IEP, the report card, and the assessment data.
 - ▶ Demonstrate measurable learning expectations related to the curriculum
 - ▶ Demonstrates the student using the equipment.
 - ▶ Signed off by a Supervisory Officer.



Special Equipment Amount: Claim-based

Eligible expenses

Types of equipment recommended by a qualified professional and must not be available through the Board's regular day school supply and/or computer budget.

- ▶ Costs associated with purchasing and/or leasing equipment to meet students' needs
- ▶ Costs for related computer equipment supports, service contracts and training that are required to make equipment operational.
- ▶ Replacing or upgrading equipment needed to accommodate changes in students' needs and/or changes in technology.

Rule of the Thumb

Ministry requirements for a SIP and/or a SEA Claim base request for a First Nation student MUST follow the same requirements to the First Nation

Ask for all the documentation

Resources

- ▶ Ministry of Education Technical Paper 2016-2017
- ▶ Chiefs of Ontario Education Services (Tuition) Agreement Toolkit
 - ▶ <http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/sites/default/files/files/Education%20Services%20%28Tuition%29%20Agreement%20Guide.pdf>
- ▶ Chiefs of Ontario Special Education Toolkit
- ▶ Chiefs of Ontario: Webinar October 2012
 - ▶ <http://media.knet.ca/node/22130>
- ▶ Ministry of Education Special Incidence Portion Guidelines
 - ▶ http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1516/2015_16SIP_GuidelinesEN.pdf
- ▶ Ministry of Education Special Equipment Amount Guidelines
 - ▶ http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1617/2016_17_sea_guidelines_en.pdf