



Parent Engagement Funds Update 2010-11

The Ministry has recently announced this year's application process for the "Parents Reaching Out" (PRO) grants. Parent groups have an extra three months to apply for funding of local projects that focus on parent involvement in the schools.

These grants are meant to fund projects at the school level that enhance the participation of parents in public education. Some of the projects funded in the past have been to overcome barriers to participation such as different languages in the home, cost of childcare while parents attend information sessions, lack of understanding of the education system.

Some OFHSA members have already applied successfully for grants to support parent engagement in their schools, and carried out successful projects in their schools. We would like to share some of those projects with other members, so we encourage those involved to send in articles about their experiences.

As in the previous year, all project applications must be approved by motion of the school council, and signed off on by both the school council chair and the principal of the school. The maximum amount granted for a single project will be \$1,000, and the project must be completed, and the funds spent by June 30, 2010. Final reporting on the project must be submitted to your school board by September 30, 2010. Any funds not spent for the project must be returned to the Ministry.

The selection team will give priority this year to schools that did not receive funds last time. Application forms for this year's grants are posted on the Ministry website. Once completed, they must be printed, accompanied by the Ministry Declaration form downloadable from the same site, and sent in with original signatures. A copy of your proposal must also be sent to your Director of Education, and you need to keep one copy for your use.

OFHSA members active in their school communities know what barriers there are to increased parent participation and are very well placed to design and carry out parent engagement projects. Work with your principal and school council to approve projects that make a difference to your parent community, and let us know what you are planning so that we can share that information through the Bulletin and our website, www.ofhsa.on.ca.

More detailed information, application forms, and the declaration forms are readily available on the Ministry of Education website, at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html>.

~