

# MEASURES DECENTRALIZED TOWARDS SCHOOLS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE 2017-2018 BUDGETARY RULES

## Amounts earmarked for schools

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In the budgetary rules for the 2017-2018 school year, published on May 31, 23 budgetary measures are earmarked for transfer to Québec schools, pursuant to a new provision added to section 473.1 of the *Education Act* in force since December 23, 2016. In total, these measures account for some 3.5% (**nearly \$350 million**) of the MELS' preschool, elementary and secondary education budget.

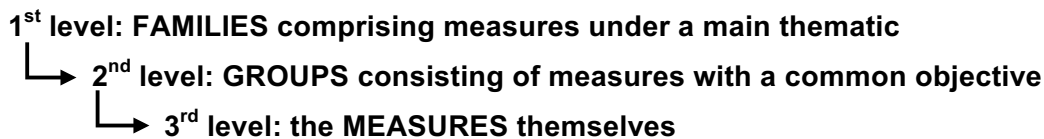
The budgetary rules contain several new features, including a series new measures aimed at fostering student perseverance and success and encouraging the adoption of healthy lifestyles. These new measures are highlighted **in blue** in the table on the following page.

**Unless otherwise indicated and barring exceptional circumstances, these measures must be allocated to schools, in full, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the budgetary rules.**

## Grouping and transferability

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Aside from decentralized measures, the main new feature of the budgetary rules concerns their transferability. To this end, the measures in the section entitled *Ajustements aux allocations de base pour les activités éducatives* have been categorized based on a three-tiered structure:



Within this structure, the transferability of each measure is established as follows:

- **Dedicated measure**
  - ✓ Earmarked for schools
  - ✓ Transferable within its own group
- **Protected measure**
  - ✓ Earmarked for schools
  - ✓ To be used for the specified purpose, non-transferable
- **Unlimited measure**
  - ✓ Unlimited transferability (none among the measures earmarked for the schools this year)

The 23 decentralized measures, their groups and their transferability are presented on the following page.

## Budget: visibility and transparency

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Since this concerns school budgets, in accordance with section 95 of the *Education Act*, this information must be forwarded to the Governing Board (GB). You can also ask to know, for your school:

- ✓ The exact amounts of the measures allocated for your school;
- ✓ The measures corresponding to the amounts allocated;
- ✓ Whether these amounts are transferable or not and, accordingly, the transfer conditions;
- ✓ And, lastly, the recommendation regarding the best way to use of these amounts for the benefit of the students in your school.

**Information about the required accounting will be available shortly.**

**Visibility and transparency are the key words!**

## Table of decentralized budgetary measures by family and group<sup>1</sup>

NOTE: Because the budgetary rules are not available in English, the titles of the measures have been left in French. The content of the Ministère's official documents prevails over the information presented here.

| FAMILY                            | GROUP   | NO.  | BUDGETARY MEASURE  | TRANSFERABILITY  | LEVEL <sup>2</sup> |     |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------|-----|
| Mesures d'appui<br>15000 to 15200 | 15010 Milieu défavorisé   | 15011  | Réussite des élèves en milieu défavorisé – <i>Agir autrement</i>   | Dedicated  | E/S                |     |
|                                   |   | 15012  | Aide alimentaire   | Protected  | S                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15013  | <i>Une école montréalaise</i>  | Dedicated  | E                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15014  | Programme de soutien à l'apprentissage – Études dirigées   | Dedicated  | S                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15015  | Renforcement des ressources et pratiques dédiées à la réussite en lecture et écriture pour les élèves des milieux les plus défavorisés | Dedicated  | E                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15016  | Coup de pouce de la 2 <sup>e</sup> à la 6 <sup>e</sup> année du primaire – \$5.6 million   | Dedicated  | E                  |     |
|                                   | 15020 Soutien à la persévérance   | 15021  | Aide individualisée  | Dedicated  | E/S                |     |
|                                   |   | 15022  | Saines habitudes de vie  | Dedicated  | E/S                |     |
|                                   |   | 15023  | À l'école, on bouge au cube! -\$6.7 million  | Protected  | E                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15024  | Aide aux parents – \$1.8 million   | Dedicated  | E                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15025  | Partir du bon pied! – \$86.2 million   | Dedicated  | E                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15026  | Accroche-toi au secondaire – \$17.5 million  | Dedicated  | E                  |     |
|                                   | 15030 Soutien aux actions visant à prévenir et à combattre l'intimidation et la violence à l'école    | 15031  | Soutien à la mise en place d'interventions efficaces en prévention de la violence, de l'intimidation et de la radicalisation           | Protected  | E/S/A              |     |
|                                   | 15100 Soutien à la bibliothèque scolaire  | 15103  | Pour l'acquisition de livres et de documentaires   | Protected  | E/S                |     |
|                                   | 15160 Activités éducatives innovantes en formation générale des adultes                               | 15161  | Projets particuliers visant la persévérance, le raccrochage et la réussite scolaire des clientèles de 16 à 24 ans                      | Dedicated  | A                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15162  | Rehaussement et maintien des compétences en littératie des populations adultes les plus vulnérables                                    | Dedicated  | A                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15163  | Intégration d'éveil à la lecture dans les pratiques familiales   | Dedicated  | A                  |     |
|                                   | 15170 Initiatives des établissements d'éducation préscolaire et d'enseignement primaire et secondaire |  |  | Dedicated  | E/S                |     |
|                                   | Adaptation scolaire<br>15300  | 15310 Intégration des élèves   | 15312  | Pour le soutien à l'intégration en classe ordinaire des élèves handicapés ou en difficulté d'adaptation ou d'apprentissage | Dedicated          | P/S |
|                                   | Régions et petits milieux<br>15500  | 15530 Soutien en mathématique  |  | Dedicated  | S                  |     |
|                                   |   | 15560 Vitalité des petites communautés                                 |  | Dedicated  | P/S                |     |
|                                   | Allocation de base pour les activités éducatives de la formation générale des jeunes<br>11000         | 11020 Maternelle 4 ans à temps plein en milieu défavorisé <sup>3</sup> |  | Dedicated  | P                  |     |
|                                   | Allocations supplémentaires<br>30000  | 30090 Activités culturelles ( <i>Culture in the schools program</i> )  |  | Dedicated  | P/S                |     |

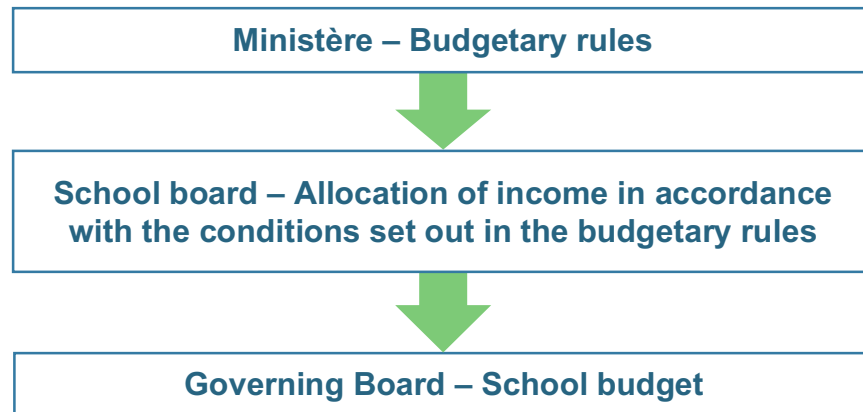
<sup>1</sup> Adapted from a FQDE document

<sup>2</sup> E = elementary; S = secondary; A = adult general education and vocational training

<sup>3</sup> Includes 11021 (Maternelle en classe), 11022 (Volet parents) and 11023 (Ressource additionnelle)

## Reminder: How does it work?

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## Suggested best practices

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### To make informed decisions, in collaboration with the school principal:

- ✓ Have a prebudget meeting between the GB chair and the school principal to identify the issues specific to your school.
- ✓ If necessary, have special meetings (plenary meetings, work meetings, etc.) to gain a better understanding of the budget and everything it entails.
- ✓ In the draft budget, identify the amounts corresponding to decentralized measures and indicate the rules governing their transferability.
- ✓ Send a copy of the draft budget to the members of the GB ahead of the budget adoption meeting (internal management rules) – this is too important an issue for them to see the draft budget for the first time at the meeting itself!
- ✓ Streamline the agenda for the meeting at which the draft budget will be presented to the GB so that there will be enough time to discuss it and make informed decisions.

### For better budgetary oversight, in collaboration with the school principal:

- ✓ Monitor the status of the budget periodically.
- ✓ Make sure that the members of the GB receive budgetary information that they can understand.
- ✓ Take some time to explain a specific budget item at each GB meeting.
- ✓ Take some time to analyze the contributions of the various bodies (MEES, school board, partners, etc.) to various programs in effect at the school.
- ✓ Submit a revised budget if changes occur (e.g. new measures, unforeseen needs, etc.).
- ✓ Ensure clear accounting to the GB.

## What the law says

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Here are the sections of the *Education Act* pertaining to budgetary rules and the school budget:

**64.** Every decision of the governing board must be made in the best interests of the students.

**88.** The governing board is responsible for approving the approach proposed by the principal for the implementation of the student services and special educational services programs prescribed by the basic school regulation and determined by the school board, or provided for in an agreement entered into by the school board.

**95.** The governing board is responsible for adopting the school's annual budget proposed by the principal, and shall submit the budget to the school board for approval.

**96.24.** [1<sup>st</sup> paragraph] The principal shall prepare the annual budget of the school, submit it to the governing board for adoption, administer the budget and render an account thereof to the governing board.

**275.** After consulting with the governing boards and the parents' committee, the school board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of subsidies, school tax proceeds and its other income among its educational institutions.

The allocation shall be carried out in an equitable manner and reflect the needs expressed by the institutions and the social and economic disparities with which they must contend, the partnership agreement between the school board and the Minister and the management and educational success agreements between the school board and the institutions.

The allocation shall include amounts for the operation of governing boards and amounts to meet the needs of the school board and its committees.

The school board shall make public the objectives and principles governing the allocation and the criteria used to determine the amounts allocated.

**472.** [1<sup>st</sup> paragraph] After consulting with the school boards, the Minister shall establish annually and submit to the Conseil du trésor for approval, budgetary rules for the determination of the amount of operating expenses, capital expenditures and debt service expenses allowable for the purpose of subsidies to be allocated to school boards and the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal. The budgetary rules shall be drafted in such a way as to provide an equitable apportionment with regard to the allocation of subsidies applicable to the operating expenses of school boards.

**473.1.** [1<sup>st</sup> paragraph] The budgetary rules may, subject to the conditions or according to the criteria prescribed therein or determined by the Minister, provide for the granting of subsidies or authorize the Minister to grant subsidies to school boards or to the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal, in order to take into account special situations or to carry out certain projects or activities. **The budgetary rules may also, subject to the conditions or in accordance with the criteria prescribed in them or determined by the Minister, stipulate that certain budgetary measures are intended for a transfer to the budget of educational institutions.**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The text in red corresponds to an amendment of the *Education Act* in force since December 23, 2016.

## For more information

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### Fédération des comités de parents du Québec

Phone: 1-800-463-7268

Email: [services-conseils@fcpq.qc.ca](mailto:services-conseils@fcpq.qc.ca)

**NOTE: If differences exists between the French and English versions of this document, the French version must be given precedence over the English version.**