



SUPERIOR NORTH CATHOLIC District School Board

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December 7, 2005

**Geraldton
St. Joseph
Catholic School**

**Longlac
Our Lady of Fatima
Catholic School**

**Marathon
Holy Saviour
Catholic School**

**Manitouwadge
Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic School**

**Nakina
St. Brigid
Catholic School**

**Nipigon
St. Edward
Catholic School**

**Red Rock
St. Hilary
Catholic School**

**Schreiber
Holy Angels
Catholic School**

**Terrace Bay
St. Martin
Catholic School**

Ms. Carlana Lindeman, District Manager
Ministry of Education
435 James St., South, Suite 336
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7E 6S9

Dear Ms. Lindeman:

Our Board is thankful for the Ministry's continued provision of funding to improve supports for students in our Distant and Rural Schools. These supports will ensure that our Board is able to deliver quality education and improve student success in our distant and rural schools.

We estimate that in 2005-2006 we will receive \$1,942,633 in funding from the Distant Schools and Rural Schools allocation, exclusive of the principals' component of this allocation. We also estimate we will receive \$475,345 from the Distant Schools enhanced top-up for school operations and \$100,653 from the Rural Schools enhanced top-up for school operations.

Funding was provided specifically for eligible distant schools defined as an elementary school that is located at least eight kilometres by road from every other elementary school of the board. All nine of our elementary schools are eligible distant schools since they all are at least eight kilometres by road from every other elementary school located in our Board.

The following page illustrates the estimated costs of the various initiatives that our Board is planning to implement to improve supports for students in our Distant Schools and Rural Schools.

These supports will help provide more directed instruction to our students along with increased adult presence in the schools. As well, access to resources and services will be strengthened beyond the level that our Distant and Rural Schools would have been able to attain previously.

Ms. C. Lindeman
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We are very thankful for these funding enhancements to our Distant and Rural Schools enabling them to achieve educational excellence for all of our students. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Barb Spadoni

Barbara Spadoni
Director of Education

BS:cw

cc: School Council Chairs
Principals

SUPERIOR NORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Rural Education Strategy 2005-2006

Planned Project	Estimate
<p>Special Education Teachers Maintain full-time Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) at two of our largest schools, St. Edward and Our Lady of Lourdes. Maintain a one-half time SERT at all of our other schools except the most smallest school.</p>	\$408,500
<p>Native as a Second Language Teachers Instituted a native as a second language program at one of our schools to provide a program more suitable to the group of students. Also increased the full-time complement of the native as a second language teacher at another school to accommodate the increased number of students in the program.</p>	\$34,332
<p>French as a Second Language Teacher Increased the French as a Second Language teacher at one of our schools to accommodate the increased number of students in the program.</p>	\$35,000
<p>Internet Bandwidth Enhance internet bandwidth throughout Board to support Education through use of technology.</p>	\$95,900
<p>Digital Video Cameras Purchase a digital video camera for each school to enhance their multi-media instructional efforts.</p>	\$7,200
<p>Computer Labs Purchase of new computer labs to replace existing labs allowing the existing computers to be re-cycled into the classrooms increasing the computer to student ratio and providing consistency for increased tech support.</p>	\$286,600
<p>Library / Literacy Resources Allocate \$500 to each school to purchase library / literacy resources to fill identified gaps in subject materials or resources.</p>	\$4,500
<p>IT Department Maintain a full-time Information Technician and Information Technologist allowing Board jurisdiction to be better serviced with tech support.</p>	\$88,392
<p>Full-day Secretaries Maintain full-day School Secretaries to provide a constant adult presence in all of our schools</p>	\$380,100
<p>Principals Maintain Principals with full-time administrative responsibilities to promote a safe and secure environment (all schools except St. Brigid, a very small school, will have a Principal with full-time administrative duties). <i>The estimated costs represent the excess of wages and benefits over the funding received through the Foundation grant and the principals component of the Distant Schools and Rural Schools allocation.</i></p>	\$243,065
<p>Custodians Retain increased hours custodians from prior years and increase hours further at certain schools to provide more comprehensive cleaning, address maintenance backlog and allow for preventative maintenance/check-ups to be performed.</p>	\$142,824
<p>Custodial Equipment Plan to purchase additional custodial equipment to allow more efficient / effective work by custodians.</p>	\$14,200

Planned Project	Estimate
School Operations & Maintenance Supplement the school operations and maintenance budgets to allow schools to plan for gradual replacement of furniture and equipment.	\$10,200
Teaching Complement Provide small class sizes to allow more focused and effective teaching strategies. Also minimizes instances of multi-grade classes.	\$4,301,663
Literacy / Numeracy Lead Teachers Assign 2.5 FTE teachers with lead roles in literacy and numeracy to assist other teachers to improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy.	\$219,205
Additional Resources Ensure schools have adequate resources to provide quality education to students.	\$420,862
Professional Development Activities Enhance funding to be spent on professional development activities allowing instructional staff to witness/participate in new skills and strategies.	\$218,000
TOTAL SPENDING ON ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS	\$6,910,543
Distant School and Rural School Reserve Fund Any shortfall between spending and the allocation for distant schools and rural schools and the enhanced top-up for school operations are to be set aside in a Distant School and Rural School Reserve Fund. (to be spent on Distant and Rural Schools in a future year)	-
DISTANT SCHOOL AND RURAL SCHOOL ALLOCATION (exclusive of the principal component) (plus enhanced top-up for school operations)	\$2,518,631