

**Ministry of
Education**

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Ministère de l'Éducation

315, rue Front Ouest
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**Memorandum
to:**

Directors of Education
School Authorities

From:

Yael Ginsler
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
Student Achievement Division

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister
French-Language Teaching,
Learning and
Achievement Division

Date:

May 12, 2021

Subject:

**School Board Personal
Support Worker Programs**

We are pleased to share that on April 27, 2021, the government announced funding for a one-time bursary for students participating in Personal Support Worker (PSW) programs delivered by district school boards across Ontario, as part of the provincial Long-Term Care Staffing Plan. This investment will support stabilization and expansion of school board PSW programs by providing comparable benefits as those being provided to students in publicly-assisted college delivered PSW programs.

Currently, 23 school boards offer PSW programs at 41 sites. In addition, there are some schools offering PSW certification through Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Health and Wellness programs. Eligible students could receive benefits of up to \$7,735. This includes up to \$2,000 to cover the costs of equipment, supplies and other mandatory fees, as well as a stipend in the amount of \$5,735 for their guaranteed work placement.

To be eligible for the financial support, students must either be currently enrolled in a full PSW program leading to certification as of September 2020, or must begin classes between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. In addition to the work placement, PSW programs will offer experiential learning experiences early in the program, providing students with a better understanding of the requirements of a PSW career.

These funds will be administered through Transfer Payment Agreements with individual school boards that have PSW programs and will have appropriate reporting requirements on how funds are spent and distributed to students. Students must complete the program to benefit from the full financial support. The Agreement will also include funding to cover school board administrative costs. Ministry staff will be contacting PSW program leads at those school boards offering PSW programs to establish the Transfer Payment Agreements.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA) for its support on behalf of school board PSW programs. CESBA provides a list of school board sites offering PSW programs here: <https://cesba.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/map-for-PSW-English-Feb-24-2020.pdf>.

Any school boards wishing to participate in this program, and who are not listed on this site, are asked to contact Angelika Kerr at angelika.kerr@ontario.ca for information and to confirm eligibility, or Nathalie Clément at nathalie.clement@ontario.ca for French-language support.

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative and thank you for your collaboration and commitment as we work together to continue to support Ontario's students.

Sincerely,

Yael Ginsler
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister

- c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)

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