



News Release

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Ministry Grants For Facility Upgrades

To improve the environment in which students learn, the Ministry of Education provided Stage 2 funding of their Good Places to Learn Plan in the 2006/2007 school year budget. The Lambton Kent District School Board received Stage 2 funding allocation of \$6.9 Million. This funding is to be used to continue to address the urgent and high need projects assessed by the Ministry's engineering studies completed in the fall of 2004 and as updated where required by Board Maintenance Staff.

As part of the work to be completed under the Stage 2 funding, the Board awarded tenders in February and April 2007 to various contractors to conduct the upgrades at Confederation Central School, Dresden Area Central School, King George VI School (Sarnia), McNaughton Avenue Public School, Ridgetown Public School, Hillcrest/Queen Elizabeth II Public School Petrolia, Riverview Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Aberarder Public School, Errol Village School, Zone Township Central School, Hanna Memorial Public School, Blenheim District High School and Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute, Tilbury District High School. The type of work to be completed includes roof replacements, plumbing and electrical upgrades, heating at electrical upgrades and asbestos abatement.

Ontario Psychological Association Project

The Ministry of Education released funding to the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) to be allocated to district school boards to reduce the current wait times for students to access professional assessments (Psychology and Speech & Language). The Lambton Kent District School Board received \$225,000 which will be used to meet the project objectives of:

- reduced wait times for students in JK to Grade 4 requiring professional assessments
- enhanced teacher capacity to provide effective programming for students provided with professional assessments
- improved literacy/numeracy for students provided with professional assessments and
- sustained assessment process for the long term.

From January to June of this school year, 6 schools are being piloted through this initiative. During the 2007/2008 school year the remainder of the elementary schools will be involved. While the focus is ultimately to reduce professional assessment wait times, strategies will be built in to build teacher capacity to instruct and sustain the improved practices that develop through this project. In addition, professional development will be offered to school staff around comprehensive educational assessments, appropriate instructional interventions for students who have received professional assessment, how to ensure that a comprehensive assessment process is followed, as well as the overall purpose of professional assessments and how and when they can best be employed.

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