



RURAL EDUCATION STRATEGY & STUDENT LITERACY REPORT

1. Background

For the 2003-04 budget year the Ministry announced funding increases for its new Rural Education Strategy program and to Improve Student Literacy.

The purpose of the Rural Education Strategy program is to help school boards ensure quality education and student success in remote, rural and northern schools.

The increase in Student Literacy funding (through Learning Opportunities Grant) will help boards offer English as a Second Language, literacy programs and other supports to help improve student achievement.

This report has been prepared to summarize the use of this funding to improve supports for eligible students and schools in accordance with Ministry guidelines.

2.0 Rural Education Strategy Programs and Services

2.1 The following schools met the criteria to acquire additional funding through the Rural Funding Grant: Aberarder Central, Bosanquet, Brigden, Confederation Central, Dawn Central, Dresden Area, East Lambton, Grand Bend, Kinnwood Central, Merlin Area, North Lambton Secondary, Riverview Central, Thamesville Area, Tilbury Area, Wheatley Area, Wyoming and Zone Twp.

2.2 Instruction and School Administration: Additional funding was utilized to enhance the delivery of the curriculum by providing supplemental assistance in the classroom. ex. Child Youth Workers and Educational Assistants.

In-school leadership was enhanced by hiring additional teachers and clerical support to enable principals to provide full-time leadership and management services to the schools.

- 2.3 Learning Materials: Additional funding was utilized to purchase literacy & numeracy resources, upgrade older textbooks, acquire computer equipment and musical kits.
- 2.4 Facilities Operations & Renewal: Additional funding provided upgrades to the interior and exterior of most schools. Enhancement to the classrooms consisted of: upgrades to students' desks, air conditioning systems, window dressings and general painting. Various outdoor projects included: additional playground equipment, building storage sheds & shade shelters, as well as asphalt repair to provide a safer environment for students and staff.

3.0 Learning Opportunities Grants for Student Literacy

- 3.1 The following schools were provided with additional support teachers funded by this program: Brooke Central, D.A. Gordon, Devine St., Hanna Memorial, High Park, Johnston Memorial, Lansdowne, London Rd., Q.E. II (Chatham), Q.E. II (Sarnia), Rosedale, Ridgeview Moravian, Thamesville, Victor Lauriston, Winston Churchill, W.J. Baird and Zone Twp.
- 3.2 The increase in the English Second Language funding will be used to hire a support person to identify and develop resource materials to assist in the delivery of the curriculum for ESL students.

4.0 Financial Summary

Rural Education Strategy:

Administration & Instruction	\$ 390,778
Learning materials & equipment	\$ 261,276
Facilities	\$ 172,256
TOTAL	\$ 824,310

Student Literacy:

Literacy supports	\$ 233,365
English Second Language	\$ 31,824
Facilities	\$ 172,256
TOTAL	\$ 265,189

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