



# PARENTS REACHING OUT GRANTS

PRO Grants

# PRO GRANTS

- ❖ Parents Reaching Out Grants (PRO Grants) are grants offered by the Ministry of Education
- ❖ PRO Grant program was established in 2006 and has since given out over 22,000 School Council grants
- ❖ Investment totalling over \$34.5 million to increase parent engagement

# PURPOSE OF PRO GRANTS

- ❖ Parents are a key part of success in education and student achievement
- ❖ Encourages parent engagement at local and regional levels
- ❖ Supports identifying barriers to parent engagement and producing local solutions to involve more parents in student achievement and well being

# TYPES OF PRO GRANTS

- ❖ Two types of PRO Grants

- ❖ School Council

- ❖ Parent organizations, PIC's, non profit community organizations, etc.

- ❖ Funding is different for these two types of grants

# SCHOOL COUNCIL GRANTS

- ❖ School councils of publicly funded schools
- ❖ Initiatives focused on engaging parents who may experience challenges in becoming involved in the school
- ❖ Examples of barriers may include language, recent immigration, poverty, new to Ontario's school system, and so forth
- ❖ School Councils may apply for up to \$1,000
- ❖ May develop application individually, or with another school and/or community group (grant money would be combined)

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- ❖ School Councils may apply for up to \$1,000
- ❖ May develop application individually, or with another school and/or community group (grant money would be combined)
- ❖ Council decides in conjunction with the principal if it wishes to apply for the grant and what the grant will be for

# 2018-2019 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

1. support and engage parents who have **not been previously active** in the school community, parents from racially or ethnically diverse communities, or hard-to-reach parents; and/or
2. support the engagement of parents from **Indigenous communities**; and/or
3. promote increased access to and awareness of **math strategies** and resources for parents to support their children's learning at home and at school; and/or
4. promote the **value of postsecondary education** (apprenticeship, college, or university) by providing parents with information on postsecondary education pathways, possibilities, and supports for their children.

# HOW TO USE A PRO GRANT

- ❖ PRO Grants can purchase resources for parents and the community
- ❖ PRO Grants can be used to host workshops for parents
- ❖ PRO Grants can be used towards a special speaker for an event
- ❖ Materials, food, staff and so forth can be funded in limited part through the PRO Grant

# EXAMPLES OF PRO GRANTS

- ❖ Education themed evenings (i.e. math, science, literacy nights)
- ❖ Purchase resources for parents (lending library, math manipulatives, etc.)
- ❖ Social media training for parents
- ❖ Mental health supports and/or workshops for parents
- ❖ Healthy Living seminars
- ❖ Financial Literacy Event, resources
- ❖ Physical well being information (i.e. concussion information)
- ❖ Supporting your child through French Immersion
- ❖ Many more, including combination of ideas

# APPLICATION

❖ Five step process for application once you have created an account

1. **School Information**- simple questions, i.e. name of school, principal, address
2. **Partner Information**- simple yes/no question
3. **Project Information**- more difficult short answer questions about the project:
  - Explain the need for the project at your school
  - Consider all the ways the project reduces barriers, highlight them
  - State parent involvement in the project (more involvement greater chance of funding)
  - You do not need to know who will be presenting, just what the topic is
    - Question “Who will do it” is about organizers not presenter
  - Need to develop method to evaluate success of the project
4. **Budget**
  - Drop down selections, indicates automatically if you have gone over budget
  - Ask for full \$1,000
5. **Submit Application**

# IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ Application for PRO Grant is due on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm
- ❖ Approval will be announced in September 2018
- ❖ The project must take place before June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019

# GROUP DISCUSSION

- ❖ What is your biggest barrier to parent engagement in School Council led activities?
  - ❖ How have you increased your membership?
  - ❖ How do you encourage your members?
  - ❖ How can PIC help?
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- ❖ What barriers to engagement does your school community face?
  - ❖ Are these barriers overcome by a speaker, seminar/workshop, resources, or other?
  - ❖ What topics would you like PIC to consider for the next PIC Symposium?