

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

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September 30, 2009

Dear colleagues:

Funding is now available for *SpeakUp* projects! [Applications](#) are now online.

As you may know, the [Student Voice](#) initiative was designed to help students, in grades 7 to 12, who may feel disengaged from their school or community. We know that when students are engaged in their learning and social environment, they are better able to reach their full potential. This is the reason our government is encouraging students to *SpeakUp*.

Like last year, we will be providing grants of up to \$1,500 to support *SpeakUp* projects. These are projects led by students to make a difference in their school and community.

The deadline for applications is **November 10, 2009, at 5 p.m.** The ministry will be approving projects as they come in, so please get applications in early!

We have made some changes to make it easier for students to apply. This year, applications can be filled out online at [Ontario.ca/SpeakUp](http://Ontario.ca/SpeakUp).

Attached you will find some promotional materials (poster and minicard) to help promote Student Voice. A package including these materials will be distributed to schools with grades 7 to 12.

Across Ontario, Student Voice is helping thousands of students get more engaged in their education and learning. Last year, we funded 1,200 projects in 850 schools. The ministry received about 1,300 applications, and we expect that we will get even more this year.

Your role is key in making this a success. I hope you will help spread the word and encourage your students to *SpeakUp!*

For more information, please email [studentengagement@ontario.ca](mailto:studentengagement@ontario.ca) or call Chris Cox at 416-325-2538.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Wynne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent than the last name "Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne  
Minister of Education