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## HDSB misappropriating government funds?

Posted on Friday, July 14 @ 16:33:01 EDT by [editor](#)

April 19, 2006

Letter to the editor:

**Halton Region:** "As a taxpayer, parent, I am upset with a recent decision made by the Halton District School Board -- a decision to misappropriate Ministry of Education Funds.

As you may or may not know, on Mar. 21, the Ministry gave the HDSB \$312,693 specifically as "an investment in school library resources." Each school in Ontario was to receive \$3096, earmarked for books, but while other Boards' teacher-librarians were out spending, Halton teacher-librarians were told to wait, despite clear, tight timelines in the Ministry directions.

On April 5th it was announced by Superintendent Gary Sadler that the HDSB is keeping half of the money to pay down their deficit, and the other half of the cash is being distributed to schools on a per-pupil basis (see quoted memo below). Some schools are receiving little more than 10% of what the Ministry intended them to have.

I think that people should be aware of this blatant disregard for both school libraries and the Ministry of Education; please run a story on it. It is ironic that this Halton District School Board misappropriation of funds comes just as People for Education have concluded a study supporting the connection between library resources and student success (see links below). If the Board was truly interested in student success, they would fully fund school libraries as per Ministry of Education directives."

Email letter from the Superintendent of Education;

"First, my apologies for the delay in getting these dollars out to schools. Senior Administration has needed time to discuss a number of funding issues that resulted from the Ministry rushing money out to school boards prior to their March 31st budget year-end.

As you may or may not be aware, the HDSB has been trending toward a deficit for this fiscal year. Senior Administration has had to be mindful of this before committing to any new expenditures. As a result, we are distributing one half of the funds provided for additional library resource funding at this time. As our fiscal situation becomes more clear and as we get closer to our budget year-end (August 31st) we may be able to release more dollars to schools to be used for school based resources.

The attached spreadsheet indicates the dollars allocated to each school at this time. This distribution is based on school enrolment (October F.T.E.) with a "double share" being made available to the two new schools opening in September.

In consultation with your Principal, please follow the usual library materials purchasing process and send all invoices to Elizabeth Graham with the description School Libraries #281305. Note, you have until the end of this school year to use these funds."

Thanks - Gary

Gary Sadler  
Superintendent of Education  
Program & Research  
Halton District School Board  
905-335-3663 #3270

Related links:

[\*People for Education\*](#)

[\*School Libraries and Student Achievement in Ontario\*](#)

[\*Kids at schools with librarians do better, study suggests\*](#)