

## What is Government's commitment to reducing school fees?

To increase instructional grants for schools so that parents no longer have to pay common school fees

## What does this initiative do?

- ✓ provides guaranteed instructional funds for schools to replace common "school materials fee" and "course materials fee"
- ✓ reduces financial burden on families
- ✓ eliminates the burden on school staff to collect these fees

## What is covered?

The vast majority of consumable materials and services purchased by the school board or school, provided to students, and then charged back to parents. These include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ School Materials, e.g., student agendas (if required), locks and lockers, school calendars, photocopying, handbooks, accident insurance, student IDs, administrative/library software, internet/e-mail access
- ✓ Course Materials associated with the prescribed curriculum, e.g., photocopied resources, exam paper, computer paper, CDs, disks, workbooks, printed materials provided in lieu of a textbook, magazine/newspaper subscriptions, scrapbooks
- ✓ Supplies associated with classroom-based work in art, technology, language arts, science, home economics, textiles, industrial arts, etc.
- ✓ Choir/band fees
- ✓ Specific items required by all students to participate fully in classroom instruction, e.g., recorders required for elementary music curriculum, K-8 novels

## What is NOT covered?

- ✓ Textbooks at 9-12
- ✓ Basic school supplies parents have always been expected to provide their children, such as pencils, pens, paper, exercise books, folders, markers, crayons, glue, scissors, geometry sets, calculators, book bags, pencil cases, gym clothing
- ✓ Materials required for enrichment programs and local courses, not prescribed by the Department
- ✓ Travel associated with co-curricular/extra-curricular activities, e.g., field trips
- ✓ Special school-sponsored activities, such as pizza days and book fairs
- ✓ School clothing, sport uniforms, graduation ceremonies, school rings, school photos
- ✓ Rental of musical instruments
- ✓ Voluntary fundraising "levy" or other fundraising activities for a specific purpose, approved by the school council

