



Reform of Ontario's Financial Aid System

Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development

February 2017



Overview

- 1 OSAP transformation
- 2 2017-18 updates
- 3 2018-19 updates
- 4 OSAP in the digital age

OSAP transformation

⚡ DON'T LET ⚡
⚡ **WORRIES** ⚡
⚡
ABOUT PAYING FOR
SCHOOL
Follow you
around

**Free
Tuition**
for eligible
students



OSAP transformation

In the 2016 Ontario Budget, the government announced one of the largest transformations in the history of student financial assistance in North America that will make postsecondary education more **accessible** and **affordable** for all students.

OSAP transformation

Following the Budget announcement, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) committed to consult with institutions and student representatives on the design and implementation of the changes to student aid and the Ontario Student Grant.

Consultations took place over three days during summer 2016. Stakeholders were asked to review six student aid related design issues and to provide their feedback on options and/or questions related to the issues.

Distribution of aid and verification of income	Student Access Guarantee - Started	Scholarships, bursaries and tuition waivers
Students with disabilities - Started	Social assistance recipients	Student Withdrawals

There are two phases of OSAP transformation

Two phases with full implementation in 2018-19.

Phase I (2017-18):

- Introduce new OSAP (Ontario Student Grant)
- Increase Ontario weekly assistance limits
- OUAC/OCAS integration

Phase II (2018-19):

- Reduce parental and spousal contributions
- Net (or free) tuition system in place

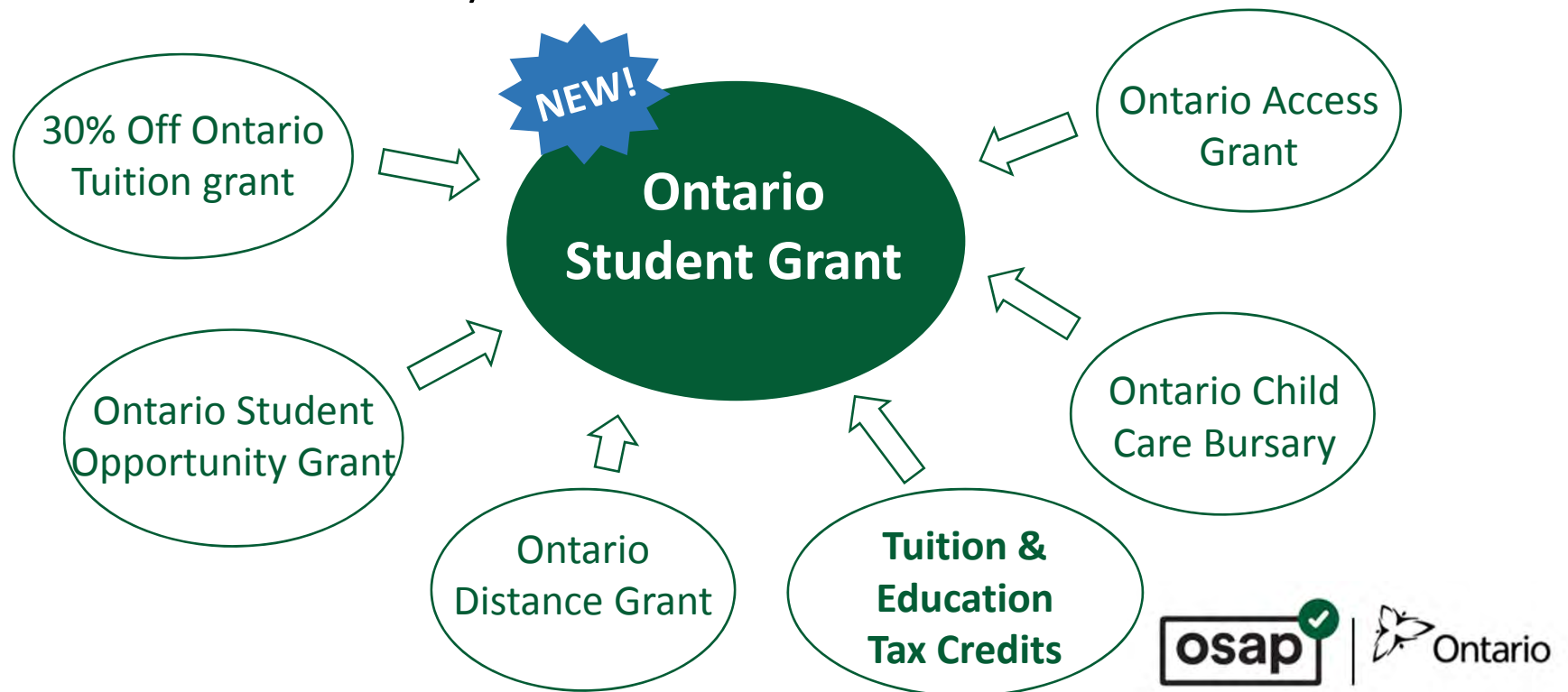
2017-18 updates



The new OSAP

Ontario is replacing many provincial grants with a single new Ontario Student Grant starting in the 2017-18 academic year.

Financial support previously provided at various times (e.g., start of studies, end of studies, or years later) will now be provided to students upfront to help with education costs as they are incurred.



Distribution of aid and verification of income

Goal

Timely distribution of the Ontario Student Grant while ensuring fiscal accountability.

- When family income has not been verified, the Ministry will release the Ontario grant as a “conditional” grant.
- For each year of study, students will have 12 months from the study period start date for family income to be verified before the OSAP grant is converted to loan – 12 month rolling calendar.
- Regular reminders about the requirement will be sent to students where income hasn’t been verified.
- There will be a review process put in place to help manage students with exceptional circumstances – eg. out of country, illness, Indigenous, etc.
- Once converted to a loan, these amounts cannot be “reconverted” to a grant upon later income verification.

Student Access Guarantee (SAG) 2017-18

Goal

Ensure SAG continues to help students cover the costs of high tuition programs, that SAG amounts are accurate and directed to students with the greatest financial need.

- The Ministry will work with institutions to implement a new process to collect information from students on their pre-study and in-year earnings.
- Collection will occur shortly before the start of school through a targeted follow-up by OSAP – not through the OSAP application.
- The first meeting to discuss the process for collection of student earnings for 2017-18 took place on January 26, 2017 with participation from the SAG Consultation Committee.
 - There was discussion on who would receive follow-up questions (those with unmet need and/or tuition/book shortfalls), timing and deadlines.
- Future meetings are planned between March and June.

Scholarships, bursaries and tuition waivers

Goal

Ensure fair and equitable treatment of scholarships and tuition waivers within the OSAP needs assessment.

- Existing reporting processes and exemption levels will not be changing.
- As with the existing process, students will continue to be expected to report the full amount of scholarships and tuition waivers as award income.
- Award income above \$50/week will continue to be treated as a resource in the OSAP need assessment.
- These amounts will be reviewed in future years.

Students with permanent/temporary disabilities

Goal

Ensure students with permanent disabilities are treated equitably. Modify treatment for students with temporary disabilities, consistent with HRTO.

- For 2017-18 the lifetime limit of the new OSAP base component for students with disabilities will be issued for a maximum of 12 academic terms.
- There will be no changes to treatment of students with temporary disabilities for 2017/18.
- There is a review in place with Canada to determine how to treat students with temporary disabilities in 2018/19.

MAESD launching net tuition bill pilot project

Goal

Make it easier for students to understand the amount of OSAP aid they will receive; how much they owe to their institutions, net of their OSAP aid; and their net tuition.

The net tuition bill pilot will be rolled out by all participating Ontario publicly assisted colleges and universities by August 1, 2017.

Participating institutions are expected to provide students with a net cost view within their student billing portal.

Colleges

Algonquin College
Collège Boréal
Centennial College
Conestoga College
Durham College
Fanshawe College
Fleming College
George Brown College
Northern College
St. Clair College

Universities

Algoma University	Queen's University
Brock University	Trent University
Carleton University	University of Guelph
Lakehead University	University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Laurentian University	University of Waterloo
McMaster University	University of Windsor
Nipissing University	Western University
OCAD University	York University

MAESD launching net tuition bill pilot project

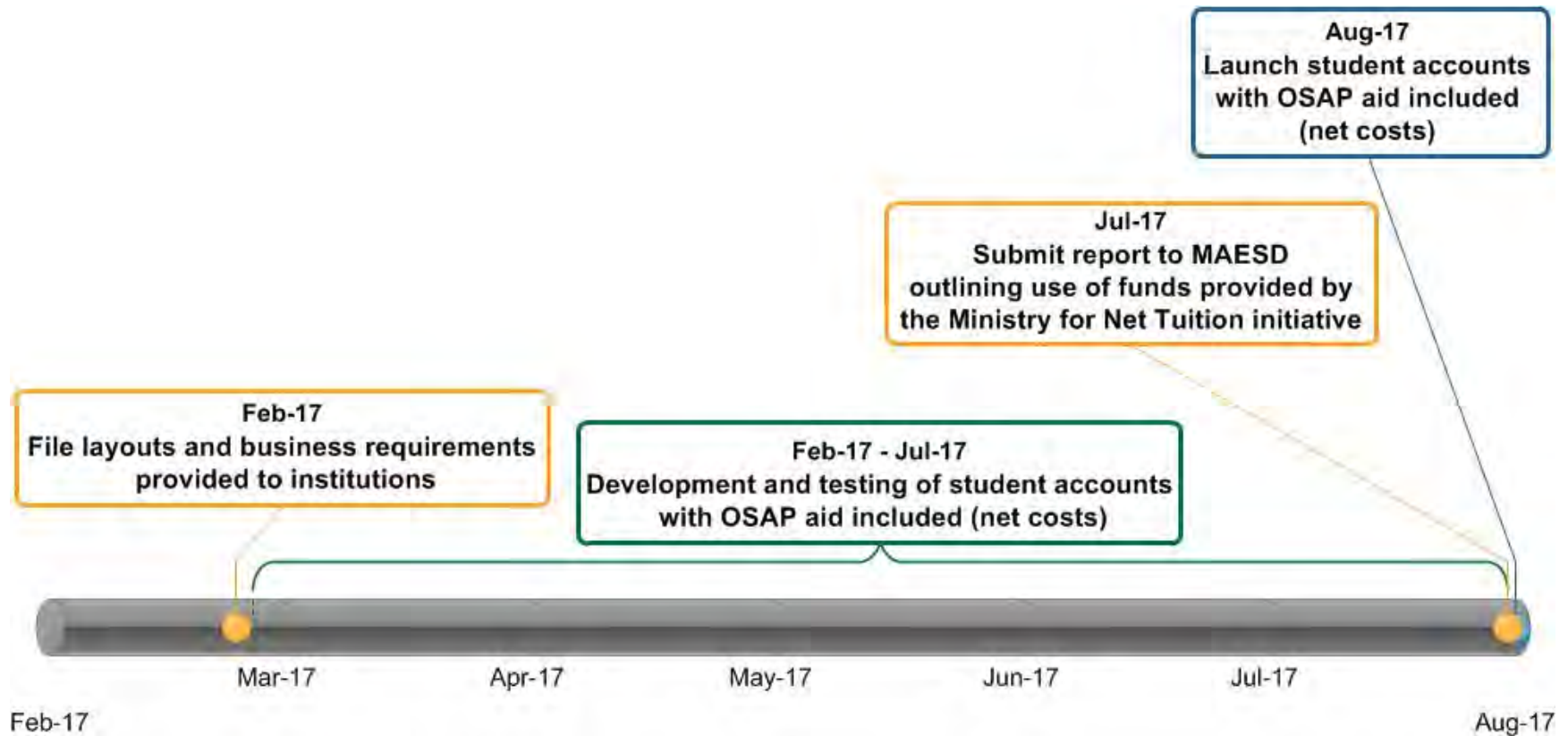
“Net tuition” is applying students OSAP non-repayable aid and institutional aid, if applicable, against their tuition fees.



Net tuition will benefit students in a number of ways, including:

- Increased clarity and transparency about the out-of-pocket cost of tuition.
- Simplified payment process – payments will be made directly to institutions by OSAP on students behalf.
- Improved financial planning for students and their families.
- More informed postsecondary education decision making.

MAESD launching net tuition bill pilot project



MAESD launching net tuition bill pilot project

All students at participating institutions who are in receipt of OSAP aid will be eligible for the net cost view.

No standardized format is being prescribed. This is a result of system and billing differences between institutions.

The expectation is that four pieces of information be communicated to students:

- Anticipated OSAP aid (per term)
- OSAP aid applied to account (per term)
- Balance owing to institution net of OSAP aid (per term)
- Net tuition (academic year)

MAESD launching net tuition bill pilot project



For Ontario's publicly assisted colleges and universities that currently participate in redirect, there will be no changes for the 2017-18 academic year.



Institutions participating in the pilot, that currently do not participate in redirect, will have to implement this process for the 2017-18 academic year.



Students will continue to be able to opt-out of the redirect process for the 2017-18 academic year.

2018-19 updates



Student Access Guarantee (SAG) 2018-19

Goal

Improve the delivery of the Student Access Guarantee in 2018-19 and better integrate it with plans for net tuition.

- The Ministry will meet with institutions and student groups to discuss the future of SAG in the context of a new tuition framework.
- Some specific areas of discussion will include:
 - SAG and TSA with respect to OSAP Tuition Caps.
 - More standardized timing of payments to students.
- Meetings are planned over March to June 2017 to discuss. Options must be financially sustainable for institutions and for the Ministry.

Students with permanent/temporary disabilities

Goal

Ensure students with temporary disabilities are treated equitably.

- In future years, consideration will be given to extending permanent disability benefits to students with temporary disabilities.
- The Ministry will continue to work with the federal government on potential alignment on the treatment of students with temporary disabilities.
- This mostly affects eligibility for: reduced course load; OSG base grants; disabled bursaries; equipment/services for disabled students.
- Administration of these possible changes will have impacts on school disability offices and FAOs across the PSE system.

Net tuition full implementation

Goal

Make it easier for students to understand the amount of OSAP aid they will receive; how much they owe to their institutions, net of their OSAP aid; and their net tuition.

- Net tuition will be fully implemented by all Ontario publicly assisted colleges and universities by August 1, 2018.
- The implications and requirements will be communicated to PSE institutions throughout the Spring/Summer of 2017.

Net tuition full implementation

There are four components to net tuition implementation:

Net planning

Improved financial planning for students and their families, along with improved communications. New/updated tools to help students understand what the changes to OSAP can mean for them.

Integrated application

Integrated applications for university and college – OUAC/OCAS - with OSAP applications, so students only need apply once. This will streamline applications and allow for timely net offers.

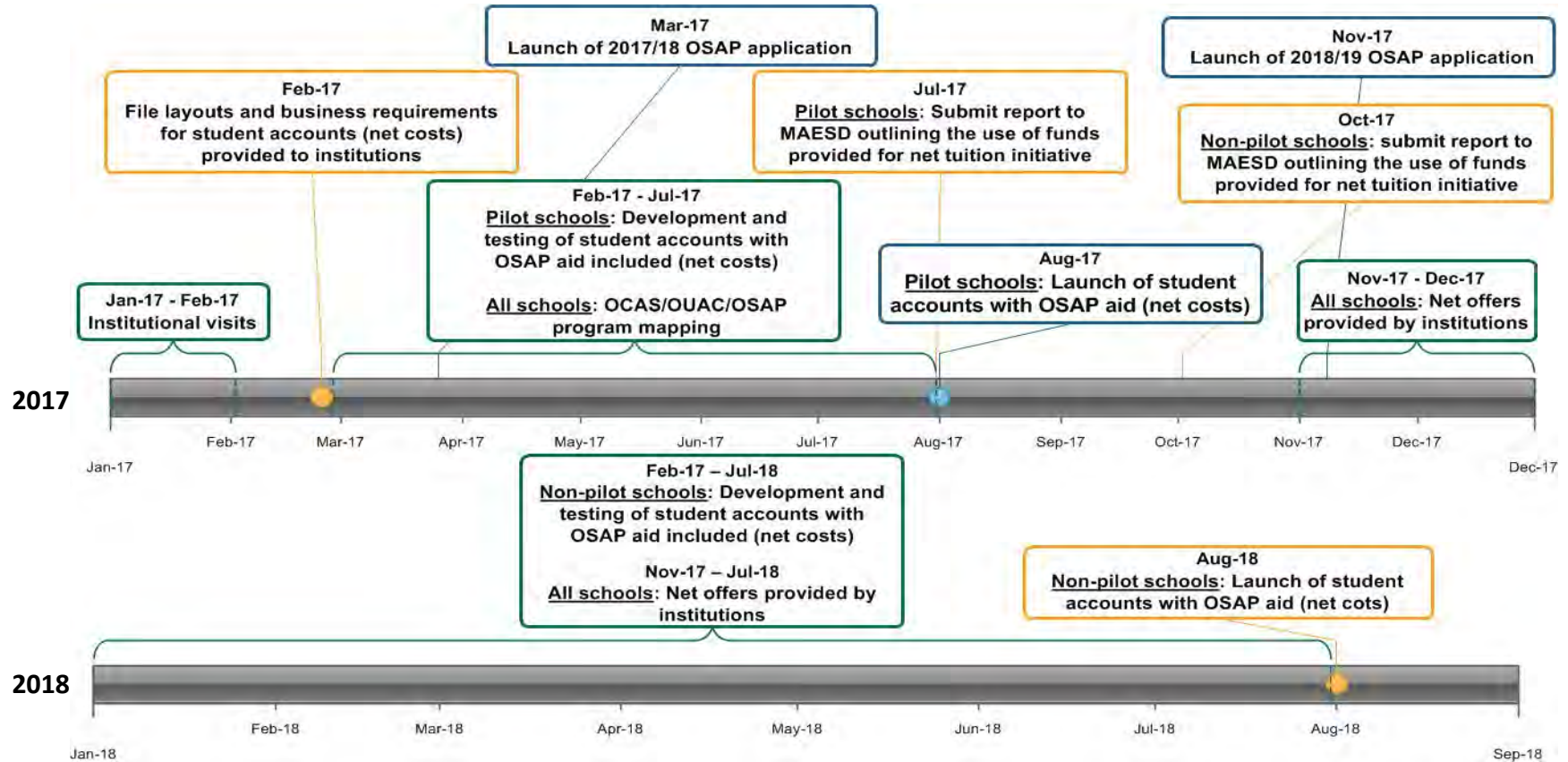
Net offers

Estimated net tuition, OSAP aid, and tuition and fees will be communicated to applicants in the institutions offer of admission to assist students with understanding their net tuition costs.

Net billing

Net billing will occur after the actual OSAP assessment has been calculated. A student's OSAP assessment/disbursement information will be sent to institutions to net out the student's balance owing.

Net tuition full implementation



Net offer of admission

Goal

Make it easier for students to understand the amount of OSAP aid they will receive; how much they owe to their institutions, net of their OSAP aid; and their net tuition.

All first-year, first-entry applicants who have OSAP aid estimates at the time an offer is made will get their estimated OSAP aid, tuition and fees, and net tuition.

Net offers may not be possible when:

- Offers are made for a program that an applicant did not apply to.
- Applicants receive an early or late offer of admission.
- Applicants transfer from another school or program.

Net offer of admission

Ontario's publicly assisted colleges and universities are expected to use a standardized format to display estimated OSAP aid; tuition and fees; and net tuition.

This information can be presented on paper or online. The mode is dependent upon how offers are provided to applicants.

The inclusion of the amount of institutional aid will be at the discretion of institutions.

Net billing

The goal of the net cost view is to consolidate information for students and make it easier for them to understand:

- The amount of OSAP aid that will be applied against their account.
- How much they owe to their school net of their OSAP aid.
- Their net tuition.

All students at participating institutions who are in receipt of OSAP aid will be eligible for the net cost view.

Net billing

No standardized format is being prescribed. This is a result of system and billing differences between institutions.

The expectation is that four pieces of information be communicated to students in their net cost view.

Items to be included in net cost view:

1. Anticipated OSAP aid (per term)
2. OSAP aid applied to account (per term)
3. Balance owing to institution net of OSAP aid (per term)
4. Net tuition (academic year)

Sample – Anticipated OSAP aid integrated into bill

This is the sample for schools that can integrate anticipated OSAP aid into an online bill.

Student's online bill provided by institutions

Fall 2017	Costs	Resources
Tuition	\$3,350	
Compulsory fees	\$500	
Residence and meal plan	\$6,000	
Deposit		\$500
Scholarships, awards, bursaries paid		\$500
Anticipated OSAP aid		\$7,000
Subtotal	\$9,850	\$1,000
Current balance owing		\$1,850

Image reflects a point in time when OSAP aid has not yet been redirected to the school

Institutions will have the option to:

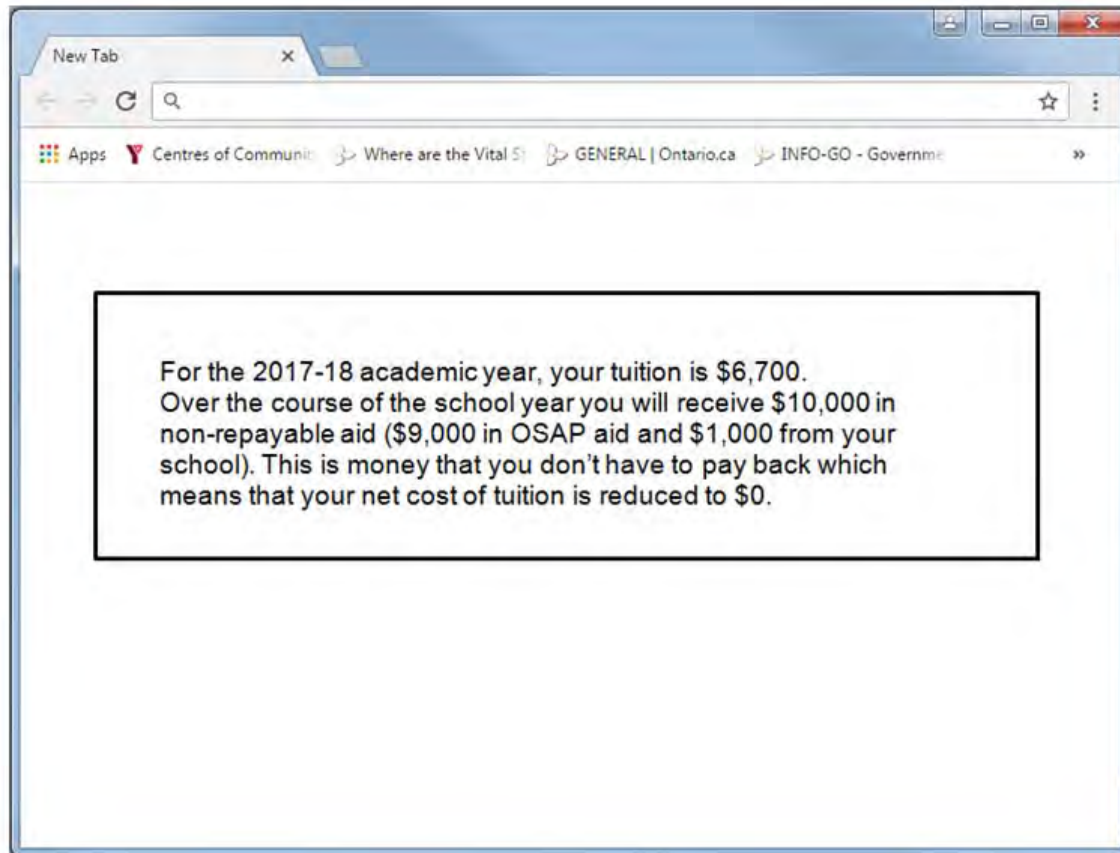
1. Include a section below the bill that depicts “net tuition”; or
2. Provide a link for a pop-up screen that depicts “net tuition”

Possible wording for “link” option

Click here to find out your net tuition



Sample – Anticipated OSAP aid integrated into bill



Sample – Anticipated OSAP aid not integrated into bill

This is the sample for schools that cannot integrate anticipated OSAP aid into an online bill.

Student's online bill provided by institutions

<i>Fall 2017</i>	<i>Costs</i>	<i>Resources</i>
Tuition	\$3,350	
Compulsory fees	\$500	
Residence and meal plan	\$6,000	
Deposit		\$500
Scholarships, awards, bursaries paid		\$500
Subtotal	\$9,850	\$1,000
Current balance owing		\$8,850

Image reflects a point in time when OSAP aid has not yet been redirected to the school

Institutions will have the option to:

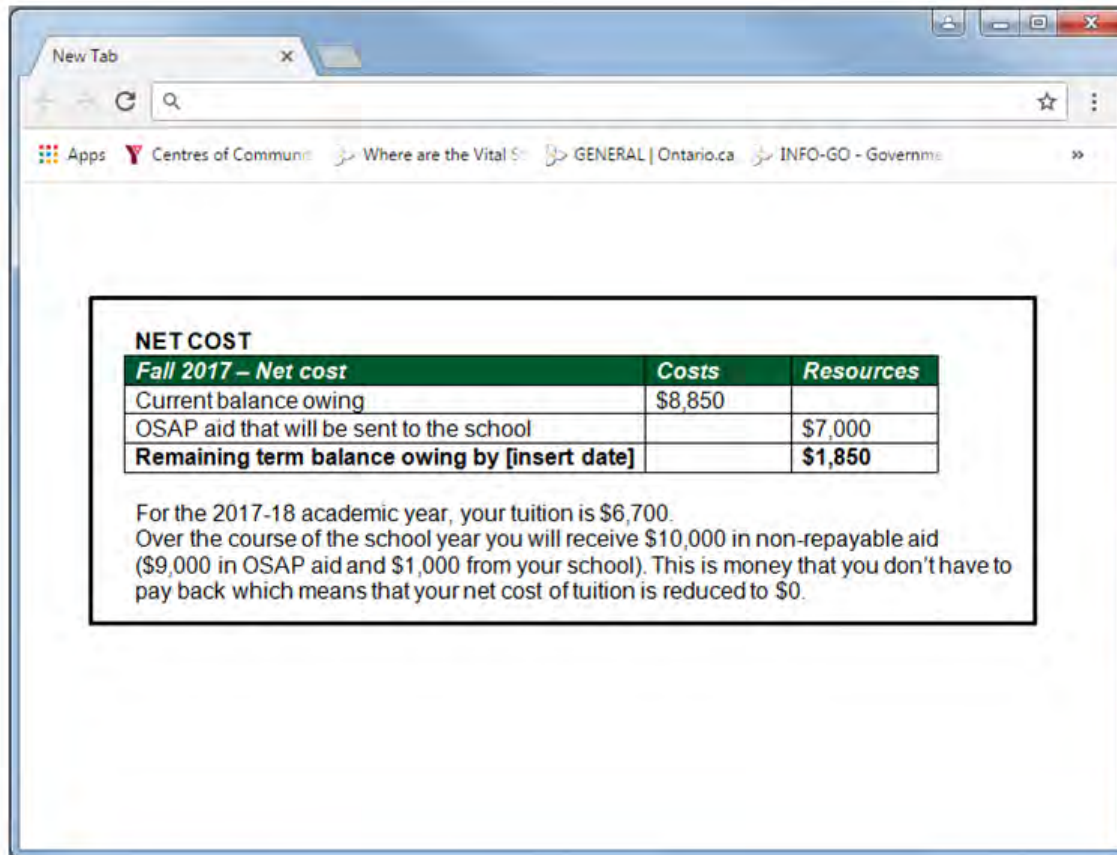
1. Include a section below the bill that depicts “net cost”; or
2. Provide a link for a pop-up screen that depicts “net cost”

Possible wording for “link” option

Click here to find out how much OSAP will be applied against your account



Sample – Anticipated OSAP aid not integrated into bill



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a 'New Tab' and a search bar. Below the browser, a table titled 'NET COST' is displayed. The table has three columns: 'Fall 2017 – Net cost', 'Costs', and 'Resources'. The rows are: 'Current balance owing' with a cost of \$8,850; 'OSAP aid that will be sent to the school' with a resource of \$7,000; and 'Remaining term balance owing by [insert date]' with a resource of \$1,850. Below the table, there is a paragraph of text explaining the 2017-18 academic year tuition and aid.

Fall 2017 – Net cost	Costs	Resources
Current balance owing	\$8,850	
OSAP aid that will be sent to the school		\$7,000
Remaining term balance owing by [insert date]		\$1,850

For the 2017-18 academic year, your tuition is \$6,700.
Over the course of the school year you will receive \$10,000 in non-repayable aid (\$9,000 in OSAP aid and \$1,000 from your school). This is money that you don't have to pay back which means that your net cost of tuition is reduced to \$0.

Government payment of tuition

- ✓ All Ontario publicly assisted colleges and universities are expected to implement the redirect process for the 2018/19 academic year.
- ✓ The Ministry will redirect OSAP aid (grants and loans) up to the maximum allowable amount to Ontario's publicly assisted colleges and universities.
- ✗ Students will not be able to opt-out of the redirect process.

Impact of the transformation


NEW!


The changes to OSAP will make tuition free for thousands of students and reduce the cost for many more.

Free tuition = grants from OSAP that exceed the cost of average tuition

OSAP grants will be focused on offsetting the cost of tuition first. Students, and their families, should have a clear understanding of how much tuition actually costs when non-repayable aid is taken into account.

 **More than 210,000 students will receive free average tuition**

 **4 out of 5 OSAP students with family incomes below \$90,000 will receive free average tuition**

 **Nearly 85% of OSAP students will receive more grants**

OSAP in the digital age



A new online tool

Get ready for 2017-18
Find out how much of your tuition, fees and more could be covered by OSAP.

Tell us about you

Currently in high school

Married/common-law student

Student has children

Parental income [help](#)


Will go to

university

college

private career college

Will live with parent/guardian

 **You could get free tuition**

Your OSAP funding would pay for tuition and more

Grants (you keep) \$8,700	Loans (you pay back) \$7,100
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How much school could cost

Tuition \$6,500	*	*	Living expenses \$9,700
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Fees: \$1,000. Supplies: \$1,700.

Your contribution

You need to help pay for your postsecondary education. You need to pay: \$3,000 (through savings, work, etc.).

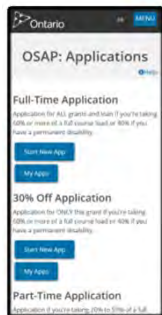
- ✓ A new tool to help students find out how much grants and loans they could be eligible for under OSAP in the 2017-18 academic year.
- ✓ Is available online at ontario.ca/osap and was launched on November 25, 2016.



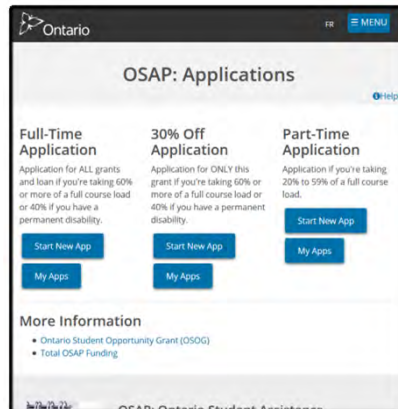
Manage financial assistance anywhere, anytime

Ontario is redesigning OSAP for the digital age, making it faster, and easier to use, so that students can apply, check their status and manage their financial assistance anywhere, anytime, on any device.

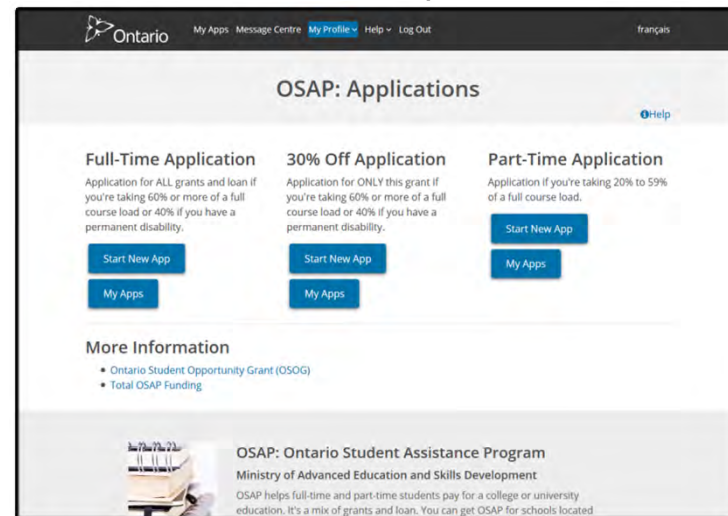
Mobile



Tablet

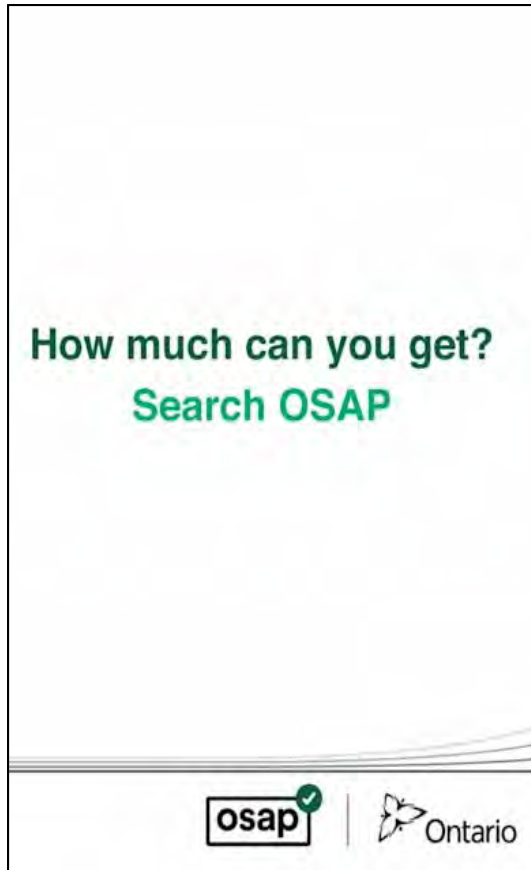


Desktop



Communicating the changes

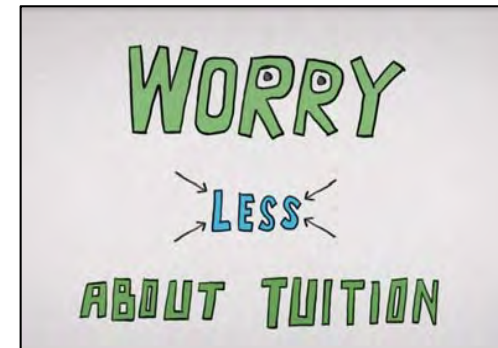
Our digital marketing campaign finished in January. We're ramping up our communication efforts in March to coincide with the launch of the application.



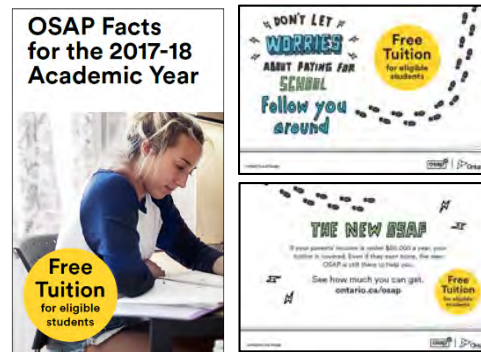
Snapchat



Facebook



Instagram



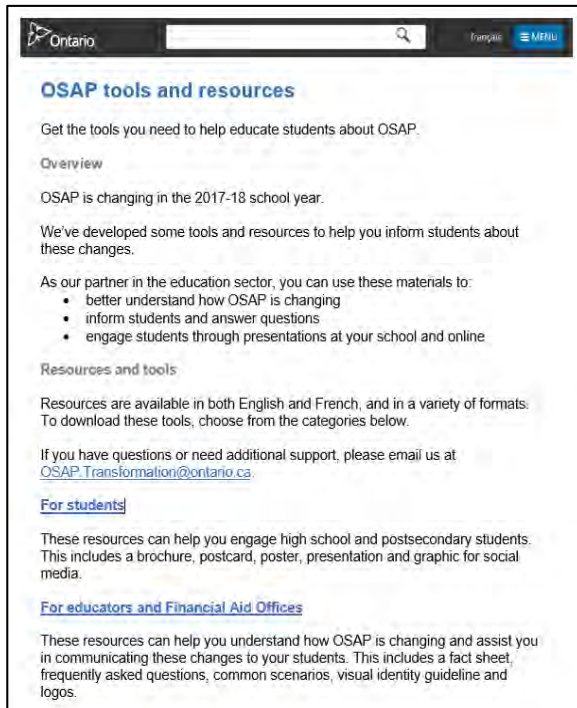
Kits



Twitter



Stay informed about the changes to OSAP!



The screenshot shows the 'OSAP tools and resources' webpage. At the top, there is an Ontario logo and a search bar. The main heading is 'OSAP tools and resources'. Below this, it says 'Get the tools you need to help educate students about OSAP.' There is an 'Overview' section stating 'OSAP is changing in the 2017-18 school year.' and 'We've developed some tools and resources to help you inform students about these changes.' A section titled 'As our partner in the education sector, you can use these materials to:' lists three bullet points: 'better understand how OSAP is changing', 'inform students and answer questions', and 'engage students through presentations at your school and online'. There is a 'Resources and tools' section with the text 'Resources are available in both English and French, and in a variety of formats. To download these tools, choose from the categories below.' It also includes contact information: 'If you have questions or need additional support, please email us at OSAP.Transformation@ontario.ca.' There are two sub-sections: 'For students' and 'For educators and Financial Aid Offices', each with a brief description of the resources available.

Visit OSAP tools and resources to help educate students (and each other) about OSAP.

Go to Ontario.ca/OSAPPartners



The screenshot shows the 'The OSAP Transformation Newsletter' email. At the top, it says 'The OSAP Transformation Newsletter' and 'View this email in your browser'. The OSAP logo is prominently displayed with a green checkmark. Below the logo, it says 'The OSAP Transformation Newsletter' and 'Issue 1 February 2017'. A green banner contains the text: 'Welcome to the OSAP Transformation Newsletter, a monthly email from the OSAP Transformation Branch, to keep partners up-to-date on the changes to OSAP.' The main heading is 'The new and improved Ontario Student Assistance Program'. The text below explains that in the 2016 Ontario Budget, the government announced one of the largest transformations in the history of student financial assistance in North America that will make postsecondary education more accessible and affordable for all students. It further details that the transformation of the OSAP will begin in the 2017-2018 academic year with the launch of a single new OSAP grant (a consolidation of various existing provincial OSAP grants). The second major reform will deliver an integrated postsecondary education system based on 'net tuition' in 2018-2019. Through net tuition, students and their families will know what their net (out-of-pocket) tuition costs will be when they are assessing and accepting an offer of admission from a university or college, or when they log into their institution's student account or their OSAP account.

Stay informed about the changes!

Sign up for our monthly OSAP Transformation e-Newsletter!

Get on the list, email:

OSAP.Transformation@ontario.ca



Questions?