

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers, School Authorities

FROM: Don Young
Director
Information Management Branch

DATE: September 27, 2006

SUBJECT: MISA Memo # 21
Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA)

- OnSIS Data Collection Update
- Local Capacity Building Update

I would like to thank you and your staff for the commitment that continues to be demonstrated concerning the MISA initiative since our last communication. Significant progress has been made in the areas of technology, data management and data use. Working together we have made important strides toward improving the data culture at all levels, which is essential for effective evidence-informed decision making.

A. OnSIS Data Collection Update

2005-2006 Collection:

Steady progress is being made by school boards in submitting data, as outlined in the "OnSIS Submission Report" that is attached for your information (Appendix A). This Report will be updated on a regular basis in the "What's New" page of our OnSIS application and may be accessed by your OnSIS contact.

Boards that have submitted their 2005-2006 data to OnSIS in a timely way will be well positioned to efficiently submit 2006-2007 data. To that end, the OnSIS Team has been working collaboratively with board staff to support their data submission activities. For example, we are helping boards with OEN validation and corrections, data entry and reconciliation. In addition, we have increased Ministry Support Desk resources, extended hours of service and continue to do regular call-outs to boards. We have also been taking steps to manage the large volume of data currently being entered by boards in a way that helps to optimize the performance of the OnSIS system for all users.

2006-2007 Collection:

In addition to the ministry supports noted above, we are taking steps to more evenly distribute the work effort for boards based on feedback received from a recent OnSIS focus group. In this regard, we have made a one-time change to the system to permit boards more time to submit suspension and expulsion data for 2005-2006 in parallel with the 2006-2007 collection. In addition, we will begin the collection of educator data for the 2006-2007 year in March, by-passing the October collection for this year.

Detailed information concerning the collection schedule for 2006-2007, including the phase-in of the balance of the OnSIS collections, is appended (Appendix B). We will continue to work collaboratively with you and your staff to support your collection activities related to this schedule.

B. Local Capacity Building Update

We are pleased to report that approximately \$23M will again be allocated to support the Year Two MISA Local Capacity Building activities of school boards and school authorities. Based upon the Year One reports and Year Two plans received, boards are well on their way to achieving the MISA Common Core Capacity goals. Further details on the next MISA Leaders day will be provided.

We have also allocated an additional \$1.6M to support the activities of the Professional Network Centres (PNCs) in 2006-2007. The PNCs have already achieved considerable success in promoting collaboration amongst boards in addressing the challenges and opportunities related to building an evidence-informed decision making environment. We will once again be bringing together PNC Executive Leads to enable sharing of information concerning Year Two activities.

Your ongoing cooperation and support is greatly appreciated as we work toward the final implementation of the MISA initiative. Much has already been achieved in establishing a foundation for data use that will ultimately benefit student achievement. We look forward to working closely with you and your staff in the months ahead.

Original signed by

Don Young
Director
Information Management Branch

Attachment

cc. Assistant Deputy Ministers
Chief Student Achievement Officer & CEO, Literacy & Numeracy Secretariat
CIO, Community Services I&IT Cluster
Branch Directors
Executive Assistant, Deputy Minister's Office
Regional Managers, Field Services Branch
MISA Leaders
MISA Advisory Committee Members
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education
Chair, Ontario Association of Deans of Education
President, Ontario Principals' Council
President, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario
Président, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco ontariennes
Superintendents of Business, School Boards
Secretaries to the Directors of Education