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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary- Treasurers
of School Authorities
Provincial Schools Branch
Principals of Secondary Schools
Principals of First Nation Secondary Schools
Principals of Inspected Private Schools

FROM: Philip Steenkamp
Acting Deputy Minister

DATE: July 25, 2007

SUBJECT: **Release of Revised Grades 9-12 English as a Second Language
and English Literacy Development Curriculum Policy
Document**

The Ministry is committed to providing supports for the Student Success/Learning to 18 Initiatives. Included in these supports are revisions to provincial curriculum policy documents. These documents are an important foundation for student learning and help to maintain a high-quality education system that ensures success for all students. We continue to provide training to school board teams in areas where curriculum is changing, and to support teachers' better understanding of the flexibility available in our provincial curriculum policy documents to meet their students' needs.

In 2005 the Ministry completed feedback consultations for the draft of proposed revisions to *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 to 12, English as a Second Language and English Literacy Development, 1999*. Input from this process and other consultations was analysed and used to guide further revisions to the draft curriculum document. The revised secondary curriculum policy document is ready for release to school boards, schools and other education stakeholders. To facilitate implementation, the revised curriculum document has been posted on the Ministry web site. Print copies of the document will be distributed to school boards and schools in August 2007. Implementation of the document begins in September 2007.

The revision of the curriculum for English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Literacy Development (ELD), Grades 9-12 aligns with and supports the government's goals for its Student Success Strategy. This strategy also included the development of a comprehensive K-12 policy for English language learners and ESL and ELD programs and services which begins implementation in September 2007. The policy identifies some new expectations for the delivery of programs and services including orientation to the Ontario education sector, initial and ongoing assessment of the

development of English language proficiency, and clearly stated objectives for learning. The simultaneous release of the policy and the revised curriculum ensures philosophical and semantic alignment of these documents.

Regional training sessions to support the delivery of the revised curriculum for Grades 9-12 English as a Second Language and English Literacy Development were provided in April and May, 2007. Please note the following changes to graduation requirements and course offerings.

Changes to Graduation Requirements:

- Students may substitute up to three ESL or ELD courses for compulsory English requirements. The remaining English credit shall be chosen from one of the compulsory courses offered in Grade 12 (e.g., ENG4U, ENG4C, ENG4E, or OLC4O)

Changes to Course Offerings:

- The ESL and ELD courses are designed for distinctly different groups of English language learners.
 - Students placed in ESL courses have had opportunities to develop language and literacy skills in their own language appropriate to their age or grade level
 - Students placed in ELD courses have not had opportunities to develop age-appropriate literacy skills in any language and have had limited prior schooling
- There is a new fifth course in the ELD program: **ELDEO (Level 5)**

This is one in a series of memoranda announcing the release of revised curriculum policy documents for implementation in September 2007. If you have any questions about these revised curriculum policy documents, please contact the appropriate Regional Office for information. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Ministry's curriculum review process.



Philip Steenkamp

cc: Regional Office Managers
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