

Ministry of Education
Field Services Branch

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Kit Rankin
Director
Field Services Branch

DATE: May 23, 2007

SUBJECT: *Education Programs for Pupils in Government-Approved Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional Facilities (Section 23)*

I am writing to provide you with an update on work undertaken recently on the educational component of Section 23 programs and, knowing the strong commitment of the education sector to students in these programs, to seek your support on the roll-out of two key activities.

As outlined in a February 22, 2007 memorandum, the Field Services Branch will shortly:

1. commence a review of the educational component of selected Section 23 programs, and
2. pilot proposed education standards applicable to all Section 23 programs by selected district school boards.

1. Review of the Educational Component of Section 23 Programs

The Ministry of Education has procured the services of R. A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. to undertake a review of Section 23 educational programs in custody and correctional facilities to provide a comprehensive understanding of these programs.

The review will focus on the nature of Section 23 education programs and their impact on student learning and achievement. It will also examine student transitions and available supports.

The review will take place at selected sites across the province. The review process will include surveys, site visits to Section 23 youth justice and correctional facilities, and interviews with key consenting Section 23 education program stakeholders (e.g., teachers, teacher assistants, principals, school board superintendents).

Regional office staff will support R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. in liaising with district school boards. It is anticipated that site visits will begin in late May and conclude with summer programs in July.

2. Piloting of Proposed Education Standards

Proposed education standards applicable to all Section 23 programs were developed by the Ministry of Education and revised following an April 12, 2007 consultation session with representatives of educators in Section 23 programs.

As an initial step in the implementation of the proposed standards, and to further inform their applicability to all district school boards, the Field Services Branch will be conducting pilot programs in September 2007. These pilots will inform the launch of provincial standards for September 2008. A small sample of district school boards, representing a balance of urban/rural, French/English and program type, will be invited to participate. Regional office staff will contact those boards before the end of May.

Should you require further clarification, please contact your regional office.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kit Rankin".

Kit Rankin