

**Ministry of Education
Student Success/Learning to 18
Strategic Policy Branch**

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**Ministère de l'Éducation
Direction des politiques stratégiques
en matière de réussite des élèves et
d'apprentissage jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans**
Édifice Mowat, 4^e étage
900 rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Téléphone [416] 325-2518
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MEMORANDUM TO: _____, Director of Education
_____ District School Board

FROM: Grant Clarke, Director
Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch

DATE: April 22, 2008

SUBJECT: **Confirmation of 2008-09 Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)**

On January 15th, 2008 the Ministry issued a call for applications to offer SHSMs in 2008-09. I am pleased to provide you with information on the SHSM sectors(s) and school(s) that have been approved for 2008-09 in your board, and the associated funding to support the implementation of these programs.

The Ministry's commitment to these programs includes an ongoing focus on ensuring their quality. Approvals for the SHSMs are based on the expectation that boards will ensure the implementation of the five required components:

1. a defined bundle of Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits for each of the four pathways to postsecondary destinations – apprenticeship training, college, university, and workplace,
2. compulsory certifications and training identified in the sector guides,
3. experiential learning through job shadowing, work experience, and job twinning,
4. 'reach ahead' opportunities which allow students to experience learning in their intended postsecondary destination,
5. development of Essential Skills and work habits required in the sector, and use of the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) for purposes of documentation.

I am pleased to inform you that _____ District School Board will receive \$_____..
This funding is dependent upon:

- confirmation that the approved programs will be offered in 2008-09, and
- student enrolment in the SHSM(s).

Approved Sectors	Approved Schools	New Renewal Expansion	Total # of students

Our overall strategy is to ensure engaging, quality programs for all students, especially for those who are more successful when they can connect what they are doing in school to their interests and future plans. The funding for SHSMs reflects the increased level of activity in schools and boards and is based on the following factors:

1. support for students: certifications and transportation,
2. ongoing implementation requirements for schools,
3. start up requirements for new SHSM sector(s) in a school, and
4. a board partnership credit.

Additional clarification of these factors will be provided in the transfer agreement. Your board will be required to update student enrolment in your program(s) in the 2008-09 reports. Adjustments to funding for student costs will be made to transfer payments throughout the year as actual student SHSM enrolment is reported.

The 2008-09 SHSM Confirmation Form (Appendix 1) is to be signed by the director to confirm that the _____ District School Board will offer the approved SHSM program(s) in the identified secondary school(s). This form is to be faxed back by April 25, 2008.

Please do not issue a news release or other public communication regarding this approval until advised by the Ministry.

For information and consultation contact:

- Aldo Cianfrini - 416-325-2669 - aldo.cianfrini@ontario.ca
- Audrey Cartile - 416-326-0552 - audrey.cartile@ontario.ca
- Nancy Lerman - 416-325-2508 - nancy.lerman@ontario.ca

Thank you for your commitment to offer high quality SHSM programs as part of your board's effort to support success for all students.

Original signed by:

Grant Clarke, Director
Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch

c.c. Gerry Townsend, Director Field Services Branch
Regional Office Lead for Student Success
Student Success Leader
Specialist High Skills Major Board Lead

PLEASE FAX A SIGNED COPY OF THIS FORM TO 416-325-2552

CONFIRMATION OF AGREEMENT TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING SHSM PROGRAMS IN 2008-09

Fax To: Ministry of Education
Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch by
April 25, 2008

Fax #: **416 325-2552**
 (Call Angela Hurlock at (416) 212-4651 if you have questions or encounter difficulties with its transmission.)

Attention: **SHSM TEAM**

From: _____ **District School Board**

We are confirming SHSM(s) in the following schools and sectors in 2008-09:

Approved Sectors	Approved Schools	New Renewal Expansion	Yes	No

Please do not issue a news release or other public communication regarding this approval until advised by the Ministry.

DIRECTOR: _____

DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

Please identify the SHSM board lead for 2008-09 _____

Date: _____