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**MEMORANDUM TO:** -----  
Director of Education  
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**FROM:** Sandra Bickford, Director  
Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch

Denys Giguère, Director  
French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

**DATE:** April 24, 2014

**SUBJECT:** **Confirmation of Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs  
2014-15**

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This memo is to provide you with information on your approved SHSM programs for 2014-15, and request your signed confirmation that these programs will be offered.

The list of approved SHSM sectors and schools for your board for 2014-15 is attached (Appendix 1). Assuming all approved and existing programs will be offered and the number of students remains as projected, your board's SHSM funding allocation for 2014-15 is \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_ in GSN and \_\_\_\_\_ as a Transfer Payment). This amount may vary based on your confirmation of programs and student enrolment for the 2014-15 school year.

In addition to the GSN amount, additional funds will be sent via a transfer payment to support SHSM implementation. As well, funding is provided through the School-College-Work Initiative (SCWI), in programs where dual credits are included as major credits for SHSM students, to address dual credit delivery costs including transportation and coordination.

The 2014-15 SHSM Confirmation Form (Appendix 2) is for you to indicate which approved and existing SHSM program(s) will be offered in the identified secondary school(s). We would ask that you address each program on the form with a 'Yes' or 'No', update the projected number of students, sign and fax back by May 9, 2014.

The Ministry's commitment to SHSM programs includes an ongoing focus on ensuring quality programs and opportunities for students. The funding for SHSM programs is to be used to address implementation expenditures including:

- students' certification and training programs
- tracking students' completion of the SHSM components
- capital equipment expenditures
- teacher training
- partnership development
- CLA implementation

The SHSM continues to be a highly successful program to engage students. According to 2011-12 OnSIS data, SHSM programs have the greatest success with students taking college and workplace courses:

- SHSM students taking 'workplace' courses achieve their credits at a rate of 92% as compared to non-SHSM students who achieve their credits at a rate of 85%.
- SHSM students taking 'college' courses achieve their credits at a rate of 93% as compared to non-SHSM students who achieve their credits at a rate of 88%.
- Your board's specific credits achievement rates for SHSM compared to non-SHSM students have been provided to your SHSM board lead.

The next steps are:

- You confirm your SHSM programs for 2014-15 by fax (Appendix 1)
- A conference call hosted by the SHSM team with your SHSM board leads to review the 2014-15 funding model and provide further clarification.
- An orientation session for new SHSM program leads will be held in Toronto on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Please do not issue a news release or other public communication regarding this approval until notified by the Ministry via email.

For further information please contact:

- Aldo Cianfrini: 416-325-2669 - [aldo.cianfrini@ontario.ca](mailto:aldo.cianfrini@ontario.ca)
- Sudeshna Dutta: 416-325-2508 [sudeshna.dutta@ontario.ca](mailto:sudeshna.dutta@ontario.ca)
- Karen Bond: 416-327-9618 [karen.bond@ontario.ca](mailto:karen.bond@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:**

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Sandra Bickford, Director

**Original signed by:**

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Denys Giguère, Director

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