

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



April 17, 2014

Dear Colleague,

I am excited to announce that this year's theme for Education Week (May 5-9) is **Achieving Excellence in Education**.

Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate all of the wonderful work happening in schools across Ontario. I know that many of you are already planning Education Week activities to showcase the tremendous accomplishments of our students.

Every day, educators, students, support staff and parents make our schools engaging and inspiring places to learn. More students are mastering reading, writing and math skills, and more students are graduating from high school. Thank you for all your hard work every day to help make this happen.

This September, all four- and five-year-olds will have access to full-day kindergarten, giving our youngest learners a solid foundation from which to grow.

Earlier this month, I announced that last year, 83 per cent of high school students graduated in five years – an increase of 15 percentage points from the 2003-04 rate of 68 per cent. That means 138,000 more students have graduated since 2003 than would have previously. Meanwhile, the percentage of students graduating in four years has increased one percentage point – from 74 to 75 per cent – over the previous year.

This year's Education Week theme is reflective of all these achievements in education – but most importantly, that we are poised to build on the progress made over the past 10 years. We are doing this with the recent release of a renewed vision for our education system that will ensure children and students get the knowledge and skills they need to learn, grow and thrive.

[*Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario*](#) ensures a continued focus on basics like reading, writing and math, while going further by putting a greater emphasis on higher-order skills like critical thinking, communication, collaboration and entrepreneurship. It has four goals – achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence – and acknowledges the new role of technology in the classroom.

Thank you for your continued commitment to education. I look forward to working with you over the coming months as we move forward with our renewed vision

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Sandals". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Sandals
Minister