

**Ministry of Education**

Special Education Policy  
and Programs Branch  
18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Direction des politiques et des programmes  
de l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté  
18<sup>e</sup> étage, Édifice Mowat  
900, rue Bay  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and  
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Superintendents of Special Education  
Director of Provincial Schools Branch  
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Léger

**FROM:** Barry Finlay  
Director  
Special Education Policy and Programs Branch

**DATE:** April 9, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **Professional Learning Opportunity: 2015 Educators' Institute  
on Learning Disabilities**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with information about the 2015 Educators' Institute on Learning Disabilities hosted and organized by the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO). The Ministry of Education provided funding to LDAO to subsidize Ontario educators' participation in this two-day bilingual Educators' Institute. The Institute will further enhance district school boards and educators' knowledge about learning disabilities and capacity to support students with learning disabilities (LDs), and further support the implementation of a revised PPM 8 *Identification of and Program Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities*.

The Institute will take place on Tuesday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 26, 2015, at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale in Mississauga. The Institute is designed to share multiple perspectives and research-informed and evidence-based identification, assessment and instructional practices for supporting students with LDs. Presenters will include researchers and educators in the field of LDs from across Canada. More information about the Educators' Institute [can be found online at this website](#).

All Ontario educators, particularly K-12 classroom teachers who work with students with LDs, are encouraged to attend. The invitation is equally extended to school principals, supervisory officers, special education consultants and coordinators, professional learning facilitators, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, and other professional support staff.

It is anticipated that up to 600 educators will participate in the Institute. All school boards are invited to send a minimum of six (6) delegates. All school boards with student enrolment exceeding 10,000 are invited to send one additional (1) delegate for each additional 10,000

students. For example, a district school board with a total student enrolment of 54,500 may send 6+5 delegates. School authorities and demonstration schools are invited to send two (2) participants.

The two-day Institute will feature an opening keynote speaker on both days, five breakout sessions, and a panel presentation at the close of the second day. Plans are also in place to execute an evening reception at the end of the first day and exhibitor displays with both English and French resources providing support from exhibitors and partners is forthcoming.

Registration opens on April 6th. Fees are \$295 + HST for early bird registration (April 6th – May 31st), \$345 + HST for regular registration (June 1st – August 2nd) and \$395 + HST for late registration (August 3rd – August 21st). Registration fees include breakfast, lunch and refreshments on both days, printed materials and access to the Educators' Institute workshop presentations, videos of keynote addresses and workshop materials post the event.

The deadline for registration for your pre-allocated number of delegates is May 8th, 2015. Please identify a lead in your school board and forward their name and contact information to [Mercia Antsaniavo](#), Bilingual Program Coordinator, or by phone at 416-929-4311, ext. 31. LDAO will follow up with leads directly to provide a link to the registration website which includes additional details.

To ensure that all spots allocated for this learning opportunity are fully utilized, any unused spots after this deadline will be made available to other district school boards. Cancellations will be accepted until July 3rd for a full refund (minus a \$30 administration charge). In case of late cancellations, school boards are responsible for ensuring that spots are offered to other board staff to maximize access to this training opportunity. No refunds will be issued for late cancellations (after July 3rd, 2015).

**School boards and educators are responsible for registration per delegate, travel and accommodation expenses associated with this learning opportunity.**

Following this memorandum, the LDAO will provide further information outlining registration details for the Educators' Institute.

I encourage you to take full advantage of these professional learning resources and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Barry Finlay