

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat
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Memorandum To: Directors of Education
Secretary Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School
Authorities
Superintendents of Schools
Director of Provincial Schools Branch

From: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Date: August 26, 2014

Subject: Revised Policy/Program Memorandum 8: Identification of and
Program Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities

Students with learning disabilities are the largest exceptionality group of the twelve exceptionalities. The current *PPM 8 on Learning Disabilities* published in 1982 is a core policy providing definition and outlining identification and program development for students with learning disabilities. The definition of learning disabilities was further reviewed and released in a ministry memo in 1999.

The ministry is responding to parents, stakeholders and school boards' requests to provide the education sector with direction on effective strategies and practices to support students with learning disabilities. The revised *PPM 8 Identification of and Program Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities* reflects the advancement in research and developments in special education policies and school board practices in supporting students with learning disabilities. The revision of the PPM was informed by the Learning Disabilities Working Group comprised of educators, internationally recognized researchers, psychologists and key stakeholders.

The implementation of the revised PPM 8 will support increased achievement of students with learning disabilities and promote consistent province-wide practices in the identification, assessment and program planning.

The ministry will use multiple venues to support educators with the implementation of the revised PPM 8. Information sessions for Superintendents of Special Education will be organized through Adobe Connect. The ministry is funding the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario to develop a range of online resources, webinars, podcasts, and will conduct a 2014 Summer Educators' Institute on *Demystifying Learning Disabilities in the Classroom*. The ministry also intends to release *Guidelines for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services for Students with Learning Disabilities* in the 2015-2016 school year.

The requirements of this revised PPM will take effect January 2, 2015. The PPM is posted on the [Ministry of Education website](#). If you have any questions, please contact your local Ministry of Education Regional Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Zegaras". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Attachment

c.: Kathy Verduyn, Director
Field Services Branch

Regional Managers