

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



August 3, 2017

Dear colleagues,

School boards across the province are doing terrific things each and every day to achieve the best results for our children and students. In the pursuit of this shared goal, school trustees have the challenging and exciting responsibility for creating a multi-year strategic plan that sets the strategic direction for their board.

Through the process of building the plan and evaluating its success, trustees work collaboratively and engage deeply with numerous partners in the interests of obtaining better results for all children and students of the board. Those partners include senior administration, students, educators, parents and their communities.

In support of this critically important work, I am pleased to announce the release of a new resource, [Multi-Year Strategic Planning – A Guide for School Board Trustees \(2017\)](#). This guide revises the existing *Strategic Planner's Guidebook (2012)*, and provides a more streamlined resource that better meets boards' current planning needs. In addition to the guide, there are also [supplementary resources](#), which are now available on the Ministry of Education website in the School Board Leadership and Governance - Governance Resources section.

We recognize the many accomplishments that boards have made through their multi-year strategic plans. We also heard directly from boards about what is needed to support their strategic planning work. This guide strives to respond to those needs by offering perspectives, advice and tools, while also providing boards with the flexibility to tailor the strategic planning process to their unique contexts.

I want to thank those that contributed to the development of the guide and acknowledge that it is the result of collaboration between the Ministry of Education, school board associations, and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE). This collaboration is ongoing, and in the coming weeks you will be hearing about additional strategic planning resources that will be offered through the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC).

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I hope you will find much that is helpful and relevant for you in this guide. As you know, it is essential that our schools are equitable and safe spaces where every child and student has the opportunity to reach their full potential. The guide brings a clear and strong focus to equity and offers many opportunities and insights to ensure it is at the centre of every program and in every classroom.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring Ontario's publicly funded education system is one of the best in the world.

I look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH' with a large flourish at the end.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister

Cc Bruce Rodrigues, Deputy Minister
Education

Don Drone, Executive Director
Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC)

Laurie French, President
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Patrick Daly, President
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)

Denis M. Chartrand, President
Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACEPO)

Jean Lemay, President
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)