

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Strict Discipline Providers

**FROM:** Elizabeth Harding  
Director, Policy and Program Branch  
Ministry of Education

**DATE:** December 4, 2007

**RE:** **The Transition of Students from Existing Strict Discipline Programs into Board Programs for Expelled Students Prior to February 1, 2008.**

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I am writing at this time to clarify the roles that will need to be played by the existing Strict Discipline Program Providers and by School Boards to ensure the smooth and seamless transition of students presently enrolled in Strict Discipline Programs to newly created board programs for expelled students on February 1, 2008.

As you are aware, on June 4, 2007, *The Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety), 2007*, was passed into law by the government. Among other changes, the act requires school boards to provide programs for suspended pupils and expelled pupils, which must be provided in accordance with Ministry policies and guidelines, effective February 1, 2008.

As a result of the passing of this Act, school boards will now have the responsibility for providing programs for students who have been expelled or who are serving long-term suspensions (more than 5 consecutive school days). Funds which had previously been allocated to the operation of Strict Discipline Programs have been redirected to school boards for the development and operation of these programs. In some cases boards may contract with or adapt an existing Strict Discipline Program to create the new program for suspended/expelled students required by the legislation.

## **1- STRICT DISCIPLINE PROGRAM PROVIDERS**

Strict Discipline Program Providers can facilitate the smooth transition of students presently enrolled in their program by:

- a) determining as early as possible which students will have successfully completed the Strict Discipline Programs and will be recommended to return to the regular school program on or before February 1, 2008 and by sharing this information with the appropriate school board.
- b) determining as early as possible which students will not have successfully completed the Strict Discipline Programs by February 1, 2008 and will be directed to newly developed programs in place for expelled students and by sharing this information with the appropriate school board .

- c) meeting with the parents of students (or the students themselves if they are adults) as early as possible to share this information with them and by notifying them of the provisions for transferring students to these new programs prior to February 1, 2008.
- d) arranging for the disposal of all assets (furniture, computers, etc) in a manner to be prescribed by the Ministry.
- e) arranging for the transfer and/or destruction of hard and electronic copies of student information in a manner consistent with FIPPA and MFIPPA requirements.
- f) communicating with School Boards in their area about the status of program participants, who by the terms of Bill 212 legislation, will be returning as students of their board effective February 1, 2008

## **2 - SCHOOL BOARDS**

To facilitate the smooth transition of students returning from Strict Discipline Programs, School Boards must

- a) have their program for expelled students, with academic and non academic components, in place for February 1, 2008.
- b) meet with the parents of existing Strict Discipline Program participants (or the participants themselves if they are adults) scheduled to return as students of their board, as early as possible to assure them of their status as of February 1, 2008, when the Strict Discipline Program, as they know it, ceases to operate.
- c) seek and act upon opportunities to meet with Strict Discipline Program Providers to share information on effective practices related to Suspension and Expulsion programs.

I am confident that working in concert, School Boards and Strict Discipline Providers can facilitate the smooth and seamless transition of students presently enrolled in Strict Discipline Programs into newly created board programs for Expelled students prior to February 1, 2008. If you have any questions please contact Allan Kathnelson at 613-225-9210 ex157 or by email at [allan.kathnelson@ontario.ca](mailto:allan.kathnelson@ontario.ca)

Original signed by Elizabeth Harding

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Elizabeth Harding

c.Ministry of Education Regional Office Managers