

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Cathy Montreuil
Assistant Deputy Minister
Chief Student Achievement Officer
Student Achievement Division

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division

DATE: December 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Deeper Conversations on Implementing the Highly Skilled Workforce
through Expanding Career Awareness

We are pleased to announce a series of upcoming regional professional learning sessions, entitled Deeper Conversations on Implementing the Highly Skilled Workforce through Expanding Career Awareness.

We would like to invite central district school board educator teams of up to 12 participants, as well as 3 educators per Secondary School in your district school board, to regional professional development sessions designed to increase educator awareness in a number of important areas designed to support the guidance and career education program for students. In addition, these sessions will create opportunities for dialogue between schools, districts, the ministry and associations on the road ahead.

This will be the first session of a planned series over the next five school years to professional development strategy that supports school systems to provide educators with the tools they require to prepare students for participation in tomorrow's Highly Skilled Workforce.

Year One (winter 2017) of the five year strategy will focus on:

- Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) Transformation
- Overview of the Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy An interactive exchange with educators on what is required to:
 - Expand Experiential Learning Opportunities for all students
 - Expand Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs

Target Audience:

The following educator and administrator roles would be most appropriate for participation in the sessions (customizable based on the individual needs of each district school board to each regional session in their area):

- Guidance Counsellors
- Secondary Educators in a counselling role (Technological Education Teachers, SHSM Teachers)
- Special Education Teachers or Leads
- Indigenous Education Leads
- Elementary Educators (Grade 7/8 or Guidance Teacher)
- Elementary Administrators (Principal or Vice Principal)
- Secondary Administrators (Principal or Vice Principal)
- Cooperative Education Lead Teachers
- School Effectiveness Leads
- Student Success Teachers or Leads
- Adult Education and Continuing Education Teachers or Leads
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) Coordinators
- SHSM Leads

Travel and release time costs will be reimbursed by the Ministry, and breakfast and lunch will be provided at the sessions.

Session Dates:

- The following face-to-face regional sessions will be held:
 - Ottawa: Wednesday, February 15, 2017
 - Kingston: Thursday, February 16, 2017
 - Greater Toronto Area (GTA):
 - Markham: Tuesday, February 21, 2017
 - Ajax: Thursday, February 23, 2017
 - Hamilton: Tuesday, February 28, 2017
 - Toronto Airport: Thursday, March 2, 2017
 - Toronto Downtown: Thursday, March 2, 2017
 - Sudbury: Wednesday, February 22, 2017
 - Thunder Bay: Wednesday, February 22, 2017
 - Waterloo: Thursday, February 23, 2017
 - Barrie: Wednesday, March 1, 2017
 - London: Wednesday, March 1, 2017
- For those unable to attend in person, virtual sessions will also be available on:
 - Friday, February 17
 - Friday, March 3

Registration:

To register for district school board teams for preferred dates, please register here [Deeper Conversations on Implementing the Highly Skilled Workforce through Expanding Career Awareness Registration](#) for one of these sessions. Participation is voluntary.

The virtual sessions (English and French) will be recorded for on-demand access.

Contact:

If you have any questions or concerns, please email studentachievementdivision@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting the improved learning, achievement and well-being of our students as we journey alongside them through the school year.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Cathy Montreuil
Assistant Deputy Minister
Chief Student Achievement Officer
Student Achievement Division

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)
French Language, Aboriginal Learning and
Research Division

cc. Regional Office Managers
Field Team Leads
Regional Student Success Leads
Director, Student Success Policy Branch
Director, Field Services Branch
Director, French Language Education Policy and Programs Branch
Director, Student Success Implementation Branch
Director, Provincial Schools Branch
Director, Indigenous Education Office (EDU)