

Ministry of Education

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Memorandum to: Directors of Education

From: Eileen Silver
Director (A)
Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Branch

Date: December 15, 2016

Subject: **Resuming the Support and Monitoring Plan for
Healthy Schools, Safe and Accepting Schools and
Positive Mental Health in 2016-17**

I would like to sincerely thank you, your staff, and your partners for your participation in our well-being engagement sessions across the province this fall. We appreciate the enthusiastic participation in discussions about well-being at the sessions and the feedback we are receiving through the Engagement Kit and Engagement portal on our website. We will be communicating further about next steps in the new year.

In the meantime, I am pleased to inform you that we will be resuming our efforts to understand the current status of policy implementation related to healthy schools, safe and accepting schools, and mental health. This school year, we aim to complete the five-year cycle of our Support and Monitoring Plan (introduced in 2012-13) for these areas. To date, 47 school boards have been visited, leaving 25 boards to participate.

This work will also fulfill a key element of the ministry's response to the Auditor General of Ontario's 2013 and 2015 reports on the Healthy Schools Strategy, and commitments made during the 2016 Standing Committee on Public Accounts hearing related to these reports.

The 2016-17 Plan includes the following:

- **School Board Discussions:** Ministry staff will be connecting with the 25 school boards that were not previously visited as part of the Support Monitoring Plan process. School boards will identify their preferred approach (e.g., face-to-face, phone, or online) to share information and discuss possible support options regarding the implementation of ministry policies and programs. These discussions will occur by the end of April 2017.

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- **Webinars:** Webinars for school board leaders in all boards will be offered two to three times through the 2016-17 school year. Details about sessions will be sent to all school board contacts soon.
- **Summary Report:** The ministry will provide all school boards with a Summary Report of key findings from all school board discussions by the end of the 2016-17 school year.

If you have any questions about this year's approach, please contact your Ministry of Education Regional Office.

Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to promoting well-being.

Original signed by

Eileen Silver

c: Regional Offices