

Ministry of Education
900 Bay Street
16th Floor
Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation
900 Bay rue
16e étage
Édifce Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School
Authorities
Director of Provincial Schools Branch
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Léger

FROM: Sue Durst
Director
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch

Ginette Plourde
Director
French-language Education Policy and Programs Branch

DATE: January 28, 2008

SUBJECT: **Growing Success – Assessment, Evaluation and
Reporting: Improving Student Learning**

This month, the ministry launched an initiative to update, consolidate, coordinate and clarify policy for assessing, evaluating and reporting student achievement. The initiative was announced at the symposium held on January 8 and 9. We want to thank you for sending a team of educators to participate in the symposium and hope they found it to be good professional development. In addition, we very much appreciate your approval of their participation in our work over the next 18 months. Our goal during this time is to develop a Kindergarten to Grade 12 policy document, which will be implemented in September 2009.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of this process.

Growing Success document

Growing Success is a working document. We have developed it as a reference to facilitate discussion and consultation. Early in February, we will send your board team leads enough copies so each of your schools may have one. The document has also been published on the Ontario Curriculum Unit Planner Web site at:
<<http://ocup.org/resources/index.htm>>.

Growing Success board teams

Your board teams have identified leads and our ministry leads have begun to work with them directly. To begin, the team leads have been requested:

- To collect board policy documents and/or support materials related to assessment, evaluation and reporting and forward the documents — in electronic or hard copy — to the ministry leads.
- To organize your board's response to a questionnaire posted on Survey Monkey. Each board is requested to submit one response. The purpose of the survey is to (1) identify policy that needs to be clarified or updated, (2) identify policy issues and suggest possible solutions, and (3) identify supports and/or professional development the ministry can provide to meet the needs of your teachers.

Ministry *Growing Success* leads

For English-language boards, the ministry lead is:

Michael O’Gorman
 Education Officer
 Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch
 16th Floor, Mowat Block
 900 Bay Street
 Toronto ON M7A 1L2
 Telephone: (416) 325-2336
 Fax: (416) 325-2575
 E-mail: <michael.ogorman@ontario.ca>

For French-language boards, the ministry lead is:

Lyne Lemieux
 Education Officer
 French-language Education Policy and Programs Branch
 8th Floor, Mowat Block
 900 Bay Street
 Toronto ON M7A 1L2
 Telephone: (416) 325-4243
 Fax: (416) 325-8633
 E-mail: <lyne.lemieux@ontario.ca>

Funding

Each board team is allocated a base budget of \$5000. Board teams with over six members are allocated an extra \$300 for each additional team member. (Team membership is based on the number of delegates allotted to each board for the Provincial Symposium on Assessment and Evaluation.)

These funds are provided to cover board team costs such as release time, printing, travel and accommodations. Board team leads are being requested to send invoices for costs to the ministry leads not later than March 21, 2008.

Future consultation

In April and May of 2008, the ministry will schedule regional meetings with the board teams. At these meetings, the ministry leads will share information gathered from the survey, the analysis of board documents, the elementary report card pilot project, consultations about the secondary report card, and reviews of national and international

policies. Teams will be asked to assist in building a consensus around best assessment, evaluation and reporting K-12 policy.

In September through November, 2008, the ministry will seek feedback on a draft of a assessment, evaluation and reporting K-12 policy document.

The costs incurred by boards related to these future consultations will be assumed by the ministry.

Other stakeholder consultation

The ministry will also conduct similar consultations with our other education stakeholders to include teacher federations, superintendent associations, principal councils, and parent associations.

We very much look forward to working with your boards on this most important undertaking. We know that together we can achieve excellence, improve the achievement of our students and build public confidence.

Sue Durst

Ginette Plourde

- c. Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch
Regional Managers
John Ryall, Manager, Assessment and Reporting Unit
Suzanne Seguin, Manager, French-language Curriculum Unit
Michael O’Gorman, Education Officer, Assessment and Reporting Unit
Lyne Lemieux, Education Officer, French-language Education Policy and Programs Branch

O:\Programs & Projects\Assessment Policy\Policy Development\K-12 Evaluation Policy\MEMOS\MEMO to DIRECTORS Jan 2008 v6.doc