

Ministry of Education

Student Success/Learning to 18
Implementation, Training and
Evaluation Branch

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction de la mise en oeuvre, de la formation et de
l'évaluation dans le cadre des initiatives de la réussite
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MEMORANDUM TO : Directors of Education

FROM : Kirsten Parker
Director, Student Success/Learning to 18: Implementation, Training and
Evaluation Branch

Ginette Plourde
Director, French-Language Policy and Programs Branch

DATE : February 12, 2008

SUBJECT : Grade 8 to 9 Transition Planning Initiative Evaluation Report

Please find attached your copy of the *Grade 8 to 9 Transition Planning Initiative Evaluation Report* produced by the Community Health Systems Resource Group at The Hospital for Sick Children, and Laurentian University.

As part of Phase Three of the Student Success strategy, the Ontario Ministry of Education developed and introduced in the spring of 2006 the Grade 8 to 9 Transition Planning Initiative to improve the success of students as they make the transition from grade eight to grade nine.

The Transition Planning Initiative Evaluation took place during the fall of the 2006-07 school year and was designed to evaluate the following transition planning processes and activities at the Ministry, board and school levels: 1) the effectiveness of the *Grade 8 to 9 Transition Planning Training Sessions* delivered to all school boards by the Ministry in May 2006, and 2) the early stages of transition planning implementation by Student Success Teams in secondary schools.

In the attached document you will find for your convenience an executive summary, as well as a complete report with conclusions and recommendations. Of particular interest are the following items: participation of Student Success Leaders and Supervisory Officers in Board training has an important positive impact on levels of transition planning implementation; and more attention should be focused on providing transition-related staff development as well as supporting the assignment of a caring adult.

Findings and recommendations from the report provide all levels of the Ontario education system with information to improve transitions planning and supports so teachers can work more effectively with students as they move from elementary to secondary school.

The report and a PowerPoint presentation of the findings and recommendations can be found in the web resource bank for student success teams at <http://community.elearningontario.ca> .

Thank you for your support during this evaluation process and we hope you will find the report informative.

Kirsten Parker

Ginette Plourde

Encl.