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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Elizabeth Harding
Director, Learning Environment Branch
Instruction and Leadership Development Division

DATE: February 28, 2011

SUBJECT: Funding to engage parents in promoting a
positive school climate

I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Education is providing all school boards with one-time funding to engage parents in supporting a positive school climate. A total of \$615,000 will be provided. Funding will be allocated on the basis of the number of schools in each board. Please see attached for a board by board allocation.

The purpose of the funding is for boards/schools to engage parents in finding ways to promote and improve a positive school climate. Each school board should involve their Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) in planning how this funding will be utilized. Please share a copy of this memo with your PIC. We expect that Transfer Payment Agreements will be sent to school boards shortly. Boards will be expected to report back on how this funding was spent, including the number of schools that participated and the types of activities that were supported with the funds.

The Ministry released "Promoting a Positive School Climate: A Resource for Schools" in November 2010 that can be viewed on the Ministry's website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/climate.html>. This resource provides some ideas specifically related to parent engagement including: hosting information sessions for parents in the community; inviting parents to participate in school celebrations and events such as sports and musical events; providing parents with tip sheets and suggestions on how they can support their child's learning; and creating a "parent-buddy" program to help parents of newcomers to the school navigate the school system.

Some schools may choose to host a parent information session specifically focused on safe schools matters. In order to assist schools to do this, the Ministry has a variety of material available online including:

- an updated [Bullying Prevention Pamphlet for Parents](#) incorporating Bill 157 changes on reporting, responding and informing parents;
- the Ministry's parent information sheets on [Bill 157](#) and [Bill 212](#); and
- a new resource, [Promoting a Positive School Climate: A Resource for Schools](#) which has ideas of how parents can be engaged to help improve the school climate.

To access these and additional safe schools material, please go to www.ontario.ca/safeschools.

Please note, the revised Bullying Prevention Pamphlet for Parents will be available in multiple languages in late spring 2011.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts to provide a safe environment in which students can learn, grow and succeed. If you have any questions, please contact your Ministry Regional Office or Susan Brown at susan.brown@ontario.ca.

Elizabeth Harding

c. Ministry of Education Regional Office Managers