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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Mary Jean Gallagher
Chief Student Achievement Officer of Ontario
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

Janine Griffore
Assistant Deputy Minister
French-language, Aboriginal Education and Research Division

DATE: January 16, 2013

SUBJECT: **Pilots to improve educational outcomes for students in care of Children's Aid Societies**

This memo is an invitation to boards to submit applications for funding to run pilot programs focussed on innovative delivery models to improve educational outcomes for secondary school students in the care of or receiving services from Children's Aid Societies (CASs).

The educational outcomes of children and youth in care are significantly lower than those of the general population and the Ministry of Education is committed to providing targeted, personalized supports to meet the particular learning needs of these students. The ministry is seeking models that show positive outcomes for this vulnerable group of students that could be used for broader adoption across the province.

These pilots' programming and practices would be assessed in terms of effectiveness, and scalability to support increased student achievement among youth in care. The pilot's programming should include expanded learning opportunities including experiential, cross-curricular and contextualized learning in a student-centered, caring environment. The pilots will support improved outcomes for these youth and encompass the following:

- increased engagement through targeted learning opportunities and creative, relevant programming;
- improved educational outcomes related to accumulation of credits, attendance, reduced disciplinary actions and enhanced pathways planning;
- access to supports and interventions including connections to a "caring adult";

- tracking, monitoring and reporting on educational progress; and
- opportunities for the education sector and CASs to work together to identify students in care and share relevant information.

Boards and school authorities are invited to submit proposal(s) using the attached template to apply for funding to a maximum of \$50,000 per board, per semester, to develop and implement new education programming for a cohort of 10 - 15 youth in care (or youth receiving services from a CAS) per pilot site from September 2013 to June 2014. Boards are encouraged to propose pilots that reflect the local community and to partner with neighbouring and coterminous boards.

Proposals are due by February 15, 2013. Communication to successful boards will take place by February 28, 2013, followed by contract agreements and transfer payments.

Successful boards will also be required to track, collect and submit (as part of a final report due to the ministry) quantitative and qualitative data that measures student progress. Details of data collection and reporting requirements are outlined in the attached RFP.

If you have questions, please contact Sandra Bickford, 416-325-2564, sandra.bickford@ontario.ca.

As always, we appreciate your support and look forward to moving forward with you on improving success for these students.

original signed by:

Mary Jean Gallagher

original signed by:

Janine Griffore

Attachment: 1