

**Ministry of Education
Inclusive Education Branch**
13th Floor, Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Telephone (416) 326-8199
Facsimile (416) 325-7019

**Ministère de l'Éducation
Direction de l'éducation inclusive**
13^e étage, édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Téléphone 416 326-8199
Télécopieur 416 325-7019



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Ruth Flynn
Director
Inclusive Education Branch

DATE: June 18, 2010

SUBJECT: **Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) Implementation Networks**

On behalf of the Inclusive Education Branch, I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to you and your staff for your work to support the effective implementation of the Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) Strategy at the board level and in our schools.

I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry is providing funding of \$125,000 - an increase of \$25,000 from last year - to each of the seven EIE Implementation Networks; the six regional English-language networks and the one provincial French-language network for 2010-2011.
Please note that the funding cannot be used for the hiring of school board staff.

Outcomes and Deliverables

To support the effective implementation of the action items of the Strategy and to continue to build and sustain capacity within our school systems, the funding should focus on activities that will support:

- the implementation of school boards' equity and inclusive education policies, including a Religious Accommodation Guideline
- embedding equity and inclusive education principles in board and school improvement plans and,
- schools review of classroom strategies and practices that are aligned with and promote school-wide equity and inclusive education policies.

The EIE Implementation Networks will continue to meet, collaborate and share strategies, effective practices and build capacity within school communities by helping school boards to:

1. collaborate and partner with other school boards to identify and eliminate systemic barriers and discriminatory biases related to student learning and, to parent and community engagement to support student achievement and well-being.
2. share strategies, challenges, promising practices and resources on equity and inclusive education, including parent engagement, throughout the networks.
3. share strategies for consultation with parents and diverse communities to facilitate board activities related to implementing board equity and inclusive education policies.
4. facilitate professional development and leadership training opportunities to build and enhance capacity to support equity and inclusive education and parent engagement.

Reporting and Accountability

Funding will be provided by a Transfer Payment Agreement to the EIE Implementation Network Lead (or Co-Lead) Board. Please note that the funding has to be spent by **March 31, 2011**. Each EIE Implementation Network will submit a final report to the Ministry by **June 30, 2011** on the outcomes and deliverables achieved as outlined above.

The Ministry is inviting school boards within each network to express interest in or continue to be the EIE Implementation Network Lead or Co-Lead Board. School boards are asked to contact their appropriate Regional Office Equity and Inclusive Education Lead by **June 30, 2010** to indicate interest. (List attached)

Since the inception of the EIE Implementation Networks, the lead (co-lead) school boards, in collaboration with the Regional Office Equity and Inclusive Education Leads, have worked hard to co-ordinate the various activities of the networks and boards to assist in the effective implementation of the Strategy. As the 2009/10 school comes to an end, we are now moving forward with plans for the 2010/2011 school year. The Ministry remains committed to providing guidance and support to the EIE Implementation Networks to assist all school boards and their schools in the effective implementation of the Strategy.

Once again, thank you for all of your excellent work and your commitment. We look forward to working with you in the coming year as together we strive to improve student achievement and well-being and reduce the gap in student achievement.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ruth Flynn