

**Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities**

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Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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Dear stakeholders in education,

Over the past nine years, we have worked hard to rebuild confidence in Ontario's public education system. It is now recognized as one of the best in the world and that is due in large part to the dedication and professionalism of our teachers.

We have seen the demands and requirements of teachers change over the years. We have also seen an increase in the number of qualified teachers who are unable to find a job in their chosen profession. That is why in 2011, we committed to expand initial teacher education and reduce the number of graduates.

Today, we are pleased to announce enhancements to Ontario's initial teacher education programs.

The Government of Ontario, in partnership with the Ontario College of Teachers, will work to amend the Ontario College of Teachers' accreditation regulation to:

- double the initial teacher education program to four semesters;
- double the minimum practicum requirement to 80 days; and
- introduce mandatory core elements.

The Ontario College of Teachers will be communicating with universities directly about these changes. The government expects the new programs to be in place for 2015-16.

We appreciate the thoughtful input of our many education partners throughout the consultation process.

We are also taking significant steps to better align graduates with available teaching positions. To do this, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will be retaining the current limit of full-time equivalent enrolments at 9,170. This means that intakes, and therefore graduates, at a system level will be reduced by approximately one half.

The funding weight for initial teacher education programs has remained unchanged since 1974. To align funding for initial teacher education with other programs, starting in 2015-16, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will be changing the funding weight of initial teacher education programs from 2.0 to a funding weight of 1.5.

To assist university planning, you will receive a technical memorandum that outlines the program changes and information related to the implementation process. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will work with the university sector and individual universities to support implementation.

We recognize that the timelines are short and we appreciate the efforts of universities to expedite decision making where required.

Our Graduates

We recognize that at this time of year, graduates, along with their families and friends and university representatives, are attending convocations and looking forward to promising careers. Our teacher education graduates can be confident that our current teacher education programs have supported rising elementary and secondary test scores and graduation rates in our publicly funded schools. Graduates should be proud of their credential, which continues to be meaningful in Ontario and around the world.

Moving Forward Together

The changes to initial teacher education that we are announcing today build on a foundation of strength established by universities, teacher education graduates and our publicly funded schools. These changes will ensure the continued success of our elementary and secondary students and of graduates of our teacher education programs.

We look forward to working with you to support the implementation of the new programs and to promote the achievement of our elementary and secondary students in school, in work and in life. Helping students flourish is part of the Ontario government's plan to build a fair society and a strong economy.



Brad Duguid
Minister of Training,
Colleges and Universities



Liz Sandals
Minister of Education

- c: Executive Heads of Remaining Publicly Assisted Universities and Related Institutions
Deborah Newman, Deputy Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
George Zegarac, Deputy Minister of Education
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