

Ministry of Education

Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

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Memorandum To: School Board Chairs

From: The Honourable Mitzie Hunter
Minister

Date: June 28, 2016

Subject: Transition to the Ontario Autism Program - New Funding
to Support School Boards

I am pleased to be writing to you today in my new role as Minister of Education.

Building on our strong foundation, we will continue to ensure our publicly funded education system is equitable, and that our schools are inclusive and accepting places where all children are successful and supported — including those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

An important part of ensuring equity is supporting students through transition periods, which we know pose challenges to all students.

As you know, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services have been working together over many years to provide supportive environments for students with ASD and their families. As changes in autism services are implemented, school boards will continue to support children with ASD through the transition.

To help support them, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is providing additional funding to help expand services for children with ASD. This will provide families with more flexible and individualized services at varying levels of intensity based on their children's specific needs. You can find more information on the changes made by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services from their announcement this morning at: www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/news/index.aspx.

The Ministry of Education is also providing additional funding to support the education sector. All 72 school boards will receive new, one-time funding through the transition period. School boards will also be eligible to apply for additional funding to provide after-school skills development programs for children.

These changes will help create a continuum of behavioural supports based on the individual needs of children and youth. More detailed information has been shared with your directors of education by Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister of Education.

These efforts support our government's plan to transform children's autism services and to work across government to improve supports for Ontarians with autism throughout their lives.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration. With your continued support, we can help all students reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH', written in a cursive style.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister

c: Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario
Council of Ontario Directors of Education