

Ministry of Education

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March 12, 2009

Dear Colleague,

I am excited to announce that this year's theme for Education Week (May 4 – May 8) is **Building the Best Education System for the World.**

Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate all of the excellent work happening in our publicly funded schools.

Here in Ontario, people often talk about building the best education system in the world. This year, I would like to expand that notion to one of building the best education system for the world — because as we build an education system that is second to none, we are building a better education system for our students, for our province and for the world.

We have already made great strides – our class sizes are smaller and our test scores are rising year after year. This means more students are mastering reading, writing and math skills. By working together, more students than ever before are staying in school, graduating and finding the right career path.

In fact, earlier this week, I was pleased to announce that Ontario's graduation rate for 2007-08 increased to 77 per cent. That's another two percentage points more than in 2006-07 and represents an increase of nine percentage points – or 13,500 more students that graduated last year – compared to five years ago. This means that more students are gaining the skills they need to be successful and to make a difference in our world.

Thank you for your continued commitment to strengthening our education system.

I know that many of you are already planning Education Week activities and I encourage you to incorporate this year's theme into your activities. Please share this information with the Supervisory Officers of your board and encourage them to get involved with Education Week too.

Best wishes as you engage with local schools and communities to celebrate the wonderful work happening in schools across the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education