

Ministry of Education

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Ministre

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March 9, 2009

Dear colleague,

As you may know, we recently announced Ontario's current graduation rate. We are pleased that this rate continues to go up. We know that the positive results happening in our schools would not be possible without you, all educators and all staff at the school and board level. Thank you for your passion and hard work.

We know that it is crucial for our children to graduate high school in order to have the best chance at success. We also need to encourage them to reach higher so they can compete in this global competitive economy.

Increasing graduation rates and higher test scores are a testament to the hard work of educators. Thank you for your innovation, determination and commitment to energizing Ontario's students.

Ontario's graduation rate for 2007-08 was 77 per cent. This rate means that about 13,500 more students graduated high school last year compared to 2003-04. Five years ago, the rate was 68 per cent. This nine percentage point increase is thanks to the hard work you do each and every day. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we strive toward the goal of having 85 per cent of our students graduating by 2010-11.

Once again, thank you for the work you do in Ontario's publicly funded education system to enrich the lives of our future generation by helping students reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education