

Ministry of Education

The Literacy and Numeracy
Secretariat

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of
School Authorities
Director of the Provincial Schools Branch
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Leger

FROM: Mary Jean Gallagher
Chief Executive Officer &
Chief Student Achievement Officer
The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

DATE: March 25, 2009

SUBJECT: Student Achievement Symposium

First of all, thank you for your continuous support of improved student achievement in Ontario. Your leadership has played a significant role in achieving better outcomes for our students.

One of the consistent messages from Directors to the Ministry has been to improve coherence and alignment in order to achieve even better outcomes for all students, reduce achievement gaps, and increase public confidence. As our Deputy Minister Ben Levin stated in his recent letter to you, the Ministry is creating a new Student Achievement Division that will allow us to work collaboratively with boards to provide more coherence and alignment for student achievement across Grades K-12. I am very excited about the new opportunities this change will provide for our work together.

As part of this new alignment initiative, we are pleased to advise you that the Ministry will be hosting a Student Achievement Symposium on May 5-6, 2009 at the Mowat Block in Toronto. We would like to invite your School Effectiveness Lead and your Student Success Leader. Keynote speakers will include Ben Levin, the Deputy Minister of Education, and myself as the new Assistant Deputy Minister of the Student Achievement Division. The focus of the Symposium will be on how the Student Achievement Division and the French-Language Policy and Program Branch, together with these two key staff in school boards, can work more effectively to improve student achievement in Grades K-12.

The Ministry will cover the cost of transportation and one-night accommodation for each participant who lives 100 km or more from the Mowat Block. Please note that the symposium will begin in the afternoon on May 5th and conclude in the afternoon on May 6th. More details about the agenda and registration will be sent to your Leads in the near future. In the meantime, your School Effectiveness Lead and Student Success Leader can reserve rooms at the Courtyard Marriott Downtown Toronto by phoning 1-800-847-5075 no later than April 14, 2009. They should state that they are attending the Student Achievement Symposium.

Also on May 5, the annual School College Work Initiative (SCWI) Provincial Symposium is being held at Humber College to showcase effective dual credit programs. This initiative is a key strategy aimed at re-engaging disengaged and underachieving secondary students who participate in the program. Student Success Leaders and Teachers play a key role in the identification of prospective students for admission. Student Success Leaders are encouraged to attend the SCWI Symposium at Humber College in the morning of May 5 and then proceed to the Student Achievement Symposium in the afternoon. Details regarding the agenda, exact starting times and location will follow.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support, and most importantly for your pursuit of improvement in our schools.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Mary Jean Gallagher

Cc: EDU Deputy Minister
EDU Assistant Deputy Ministers
Regional Managers
SAO Field Team Leaders