

Appendix: Responsive Professional Learning for School and System Leaders in 2015-16

Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario, includes a commitment to “cultivate and continuously develop a high-quality teaching profession and strong leadership at all levels of the system.” The renewed vision promotes strong partnerships and collaboration across schools and communities, and across government. Consistent with this vision, the ministry is committed to improvement in responsive, collaborative approaches to professional learning, meetings and event planning.

The ministry is building on progress made in 2014-15, with a focus on:

- Continuing to align professional learning with capacity-building priorities arising from the renewed vision and differentiated needs across the province
- More extensive collaboration and consultation with education partners on process improvements
- Extending focus for streamlining to include events for school administrators, in addition to system leaders
- Timely release of the 2015-16 Calendar of Education Events

Highlights of a more responsive approach include:

1. Greater responsiveness to system needs, with greater clarity regarding intended outcomes and audience:

- Increased choice regarding topic, timing and delivery approach for professional learning
- Targeted time periods with fewer events and increased optional/remote participation (e.g., July, August, December, June)
- Honour reporting and EQAO periods, and faith days where possible
- Early release on Friday afternoons and continuation of no Monday meetings

2. Earlier consultation, development and release of calendar to promote transparency and support DSB planning:

- Early and ongoing consultation with CODE and the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)
- Working with partners to include third party events and avoid conflicts where possible
- Release of ministry calendar in March 2015 (instead of summer/early fall)

3. Spring 2015 Provincial Congress/Symposium

- Move from the Regional Fall Symposia to an annual Provincial Symposium integrated with the Leadership Congress to launch 2015-16 school year at appropriate time in planning cycle for DSBs
- Co-planned with education partners to meet DSB priorities



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4. Examples of increased optional and/or alternative formats to support greater flexibility for DSBs:

- New Teacher Induction Program [NTIP]
- Pedagogical Leadership K-3 optional webinars
- Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership [OFIP] launch web conferences
- Differentiated Instruction/Collaborative Inquiry [DI/CI] web conferences
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Collaborative Inquiry web conference: differentiated participation options

5. Examples of increased coordination and session adjacency:

- Pedagogical Leadership K-3 and Early Years Leads/CMSM & DSSABs sessions streamlined to one combined two-day meeting, reduced from two separate two-day meetings per term (**ie: ten off-site days per region in 14/15 reduced to four days per region in 15/16, supported by increased remote options**)
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Framework Implementation reduced from three meetings to two meetings (**ie: three off-site days per region to two off-site days plus one remote**)
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Collaborative Inquiry and First Nation, Métis and Inuit Framework Implementation sessions **coordinated to reduce DSB travel demands**
- FSL Launch and FSL Framework Implementation sessions **coordinated to reduce travel demands**
- OERS **coordinated with MISA to reduce DSB travel demands**, and potential for further coordination of OERS with Faculty Forum and partner events

