

Ministry of Education
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Ministère de l'Éducation
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MEMORANDUM TO: XXX
Director of Education
XXX DSB

FROM: Pauline McNaughton, Director (A)
Student Success Policy Branch

Denys Giguère, Director
French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

DATE: March 9, 2015

SUBJECT: **Confirmation of Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)
Programs 2015-16**

This memo is to provide you with information on your approved SHSM programs for 2015-16, and request your signed confirmation that these programs will be offered.

The list of approved SHSM sectors and schools for your board for 2015-16 is attached (Appendix 1). Assuming all approved and existing programs will be offered and the number of students remains as projected, your board's SHSM funding allocation for 2015-16 is \$XXX (\$XXX in GSN and \$XXX as a Transfer Payment). The Transfer Payment amount may vary based on your confirmation of programs and actual student enrolment for the 2015-16 school year.

The 2015-16 SHSM Confirmation Form (Appendix 2) is for you to indicate which approved and existing SHSM program(s) will be offered in the identified secondary school(s). We would ask that you address each program on the form with a 'Yes' or 'No', update the projected number of students, sign and email a PDF version to SSL18.StrategicPolicy@ontario.ca by **March 13, 2015**.

The Ministry's commitment to SHSM programs includes an ongoing focus on ensuring quality programs and opportunities for students. The funding for SHSM programs is to be used to address implementation expenditures including:

- students' certification and training programs
- tracking students' completion of the SHSM components
- capital equipment expenditures
- teacher training
- partnership development
- CLA implementation.

The SHSM continues to be a highly successful program to engage students. According to 2012-13 OnSIS data, SHSM programs have the greatest success with students taking college and workplace courses:

- SHSM students taking ‘workplace’ courses achieve their credits at a rate of 92% as compared to non-SHSM students who achieve their credits at a rate of 85%
- SHSM students taking ‘college’ courses achieve their credits at a rate of 93% as compared to non-SHSM students who achieve their credits at a rate of 88%
- Your board’s specific credits achievement rates for SHSM students compared to non-SHSM students have been provided to your board lead.

The next steps are:

- You confirm your SHSM programs for 2015-16 (Appendix 1)
- A conference call hosted by the Ministry with your SHSM board lead to review the 2015-16 funding model and provide further clarification
- An orientation session for new SHSM program leads will be held in Toronto on May 13, 2015

Please do not issue a news release or other public communication regarding this approval until advised by the Ministry.

For further information please contact:

- Aldo Cianfrini: 416-325-2669 - aldo.cianfrini@ontario.ca
- Sudeshna Dutta: 416-325-2508 sudeshna.dutta@ontario.ca
- Karen Bond: 416-327-9618 karen.bond@ontario.ca

Thank you for your commitment to offer high quality SHSM programs as part of your board’s effort to support success for all students

Pauline McNaughton, Director (A)

Denys Giguère, Director

c. Kathy Verduyn, Director, Field Services Branch
Regional Office Lead for Student Success
Student Success Leader
Specialist High Skills Major Board Lead

Appendix 1: Approval Status of Submitted SHSM Applications 2015-16

Sector	School Name	Approval Status Y= approved N= not approved
Arts and Culture	XX	Y
Construction	XX	Y
Construction	XX	Y
Energy	XX	Y
Environment	XX	Y
Health and Wellness	XX	Y
Hospitality and Tourism	XX	Y
Hospitality and Tourism	XX	Y
Manufacturing	XX	Y
Sports	XX	Y

Appendix 2: Confirmation Form

**CONFIRMATION OF AGREEMENT TO OFFER
THE FOLLOWING SHSM PROGRAMS IN 2015-16**

PLEASE EMAIL SIGNED COPY OF THIS FORM TO SSL18.StrategicPolicy@ontario.ca

**Fax To: Ministry of Education
Student Success Policy Branch**

Fax by April 3, 2015

**EMAIL: SSL18.StrategicPolicy@ontario.ca
Attention: The SHSM TEAM**

From: XXX DSB

I am confirming that the following SHSM program(s) will be delivered in 2015-16

Sector	School Name	Projected number of students in each program	This program will run in 2015-16 Yes or No
Arts and Culture	XX	XX	
Construction	XX	XX	
Construction	XX	XX	
Energy	XX	XX	
Environment	XX	XX	
Health and Wellness	XX	XX	
Hospitality and Tourism	XX	XX	
Hospitality and Tourism	XX	XX	
Manufacturing	XX	XX	
Sports	XX	XX	

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DIRECTOR'S NAME: _____

DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____