

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Superintendents of School Authorities

FROM: Elizabeth Harding
Director, Learning Environment Branch
Instruction and Leadership Development Division

DATE: May 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Implementation of Bill 157 and Associated Policies

I am writing to you to follow up on the implementation of Bill 157 (*Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act*), Regulation 472/07 and related policies which came into effect on February 1, 2010 and to inform you of new funding to boards to promote positive school climate.

The ministry recognizes that board policy development and implementation is an ongoing, dynamic and fluid process, and one that must reflect the current realities in the school community. The ministry supports boards as they continue to embed the changes required as a result of Bill 157 and related policies in practice.

As you know, the Ministry of Education will be providing boards with \$2.5 million in 2010-11 to promote activities at the school level that will improve and promote a positive school climate. There will be additional information to come regarding the use of this funding.

The ministry is asking that all boards attest that they have policies in place that align with Bill 157, associated regulations and policies; that board policies have been posted on the board's public website; and that board employees have been made aware of their responsibilities under Bill 157. We are therefore asking you to sign and return to the ministry the attached *Statement of Attestation and Conformity*. In this way, boards will continue to support increased public confidence in the publicly funded education system, promote accountability and increase transparency to parents and students of this province.

The ministry recognizes that some of these recent legislative and policy changes impact on every employee in your board. We have received a number of questions from the sector which require clarification. To supplement the set of Questions and Answers (Qs and As) that were sent to you on January 18, 2010, please find attached a list of questions that have been raised by some of your colleagues, to which the ministry has provided a response. Hopefully, these will be helpful in clarifying outstanding issues or concerns. We also invite you to send the ministry any other questions that may arise regarding implementation of these changes. We are committed to sharing these questions and the ministry's response with all boards so everyone will have access to the same information.

Please email any questions to ashleigh.egerton@ontario.ca and fax the signed attestation statement by May 28, 2010 to:

Ashleigh Egerton
Safe Schools Unit
Learning Environment Branch
Ministry of Education
Fax: (416) 325-2664

As implementation of this new legislation and policies continues, the ministry encourage boards to work with their local affiliates in order to ensure that the implementation of these changes supports our work to make schools safe and welcoming for students.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and for your continued commitment to students in this province.

Elizabeth Harding
Director

Attachments

- c. Regional Managers, Ministry of Education Regional Offices
- Reno Melatti, Ontario Teachers' Federation
- Ken Coran, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
- Sam Hammond, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
- James Ryan, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
- Benoit Mercier, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens
- Colleen Schenk, Ontario Public School Boards' Association
- Kathy Kirby, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
- Isabelle Charbonneau, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
- Ronald Marion, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario