

Ministry of Education

Minister

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Memorandum To: School Board Chairs

From: Liz Sandals
Minister

Date: May 11, 2015

Subject: Accommodations Relating to the Curriculum

I am writing today to acknowledge that many of you have been working with your communities to respond to questions about the recently released curriculum for *Health and Physical Education, Grades 1 to 12*, including questions related to requests for accommodation relating to portions of this curriculum. I thank you for this hard work.

Through this memo, I would like to clarify my expectations around such requests.

Our priority is the health, safety, and well-being of all our students. They deserve an up-to-date, research-based curriculum that provides them with the skills they need in today's ever changing world.

I am aware that boards have been working with parents for many years with respect to requests for accommodation, and that these requests have been handled with care and in accordance with board policies and guidelines. My expectation continues to be that boards will respectfully and sensitively address parents' questions and concerns about the learning outlined in the curriculum and the instructional practices or resources that will be used.

Should parents wish to discuss possible accommodation, including exemptions, it is my expectation that these requests be considered on a case by case basis within the board's existing policies and that reasonable alternative activities be offered. It is my expectation that boards should be able to handle these requests for accommodation with their existing resources. If a board is encountering an unexpectedly high volume of accommodation requests, the ministry is available to work with the board to find an effective way forward.

I also understand that schools communicate with parents through a variety of means about what students are learning and I encourage you to continue to do so. This communication builds stronger connections between the home and the school, which support student learning, achievement and well-being. I encourage boards to continue to build and maintain open lines of communication with families and their local communities as we move forward. Should you need assistance, my staff are available to provide support.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Liz Sandals
Minister

c: Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario

Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques

Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

Ontario Public School Boards' Association