

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifce Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



May 25, 2017

Dear colleagues,

On December 5, 2016, Premier Wynne made a public commitment to develop an accessibility standard for education.

This accessibility standard will help us address barriers in education that prevent children and students from reaching their full potential.

To get started, I am working in partnership with my colleagues at the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, and at the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario to establish a Standards Development Committee for Education.

We are also conducting a survey to hear from you in the possible scope of this committee's mandate. Feel free to share this survey broadly throughout your organization. You can also provide feedback by conducting a focus group using the attached engagement guide.

To complete the survey, you can access it by visiting this URL:

- English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EducationSurveyEN>
- French: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/SondageAccessibilite>

I would appreciate your feedback by July 14, 2017. If you have any questions about the survey, please call 416-325-2929 or 1-800-387-5514, or for TTY 416-325-3408 or 1-800-268-7095.

We are officially launching the recruitment process for the education Standards Development Committee and are now accepting applications. For information on how to apply, please contact phil.simeon@ontario.ca at the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario. More information regarding the recruitment process will continue to be communicated

Ontario is committed to supporting the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and its goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025.

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Under this Act, the government has created enforceable standards for accessible customer service, information and communications, transportation, the design of public spaces, and employment. Many of these standards have already begun to remove barriers in child care facilities and schools.

Ontario's accessibility standards require that accessibility policies be in place, educators are trained on accessible programs and curricula, and that libraries are providing accessible formats. These requirements help ensure that all children and students have access to the resources they need to learn and to prepare them for a future in Ontario's workforce.

Our government is committed to building an accessible education system. The development of an education accessibility standard will further support the ability of students with disabilities to reach their potential, and participate in our society and in the job market.

This is an important opportunity to hear from you about an accessibility standard for education. I look forward to working with you on meeting our goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister

Attachment

cc Bruce Rodrigues, Deputy Minister of Education