

**Ministry of Education**

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

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**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education of English-Language District School Boards  
Supervisory Officers, Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Program Superintendents  
Principals of Secondary Schools  
Principals of Elementary Schools  
Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools  
Principals of Inspected Private Schools  
Principal of the Independent Learning Centre

**FROM:** George Zegarac  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Strategic Planning and  
Elementary/Secondary Programs Division

**DATE:** November 19, 2007

**SUBJECT:** **Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirements and  
Related Curriculum Policy Revisions**

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I am writing to you as a follow up to my memorandum of May 23, 2007 on the focus for the Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary Program Division in 2007-2008. In that memorandum I indicated that you would be receiving an information package with further changes to the secondary school diploma and curriculum requirements as well as additional materials that support the implementation of these changes in your board and schools including an interim updated Ontario Student Transcript (OST) Manual.

The attached Policy and Program Memorandum No. 146 outlines changes for secondary schools which, starting in the school year 2007-2008, increase flexibility and options available to students in planning their secondary school program, in keeping with Ontario Secondary School Program and Diploma Requirements that maintain high standards and expectations for all students. These changes include increased recognition of second-language learning, including Native languages, in both English-language and French-language schools and increased flexibility in the Healthy Active Living Education courses within the Physical Education Curriculum document which allow students to take more than one Healthy Active Living Education course for credit per year. The memorandum also revises requirements for credits earned in language support programs.

In order to assist schools and boards in presenting this information to parents, students and teachers, we have updated the poster, “What do you need to graduate?” first sent to schools in February 2006, to now reflect the changes that are effective in 2007-2008. Copies of this updated poster are available on the ministry website, listed below. Additional print copies, one per student in grades 8 – 11, will be sent out to elementary and secondary schools in November in order to support the option selection process.

*The Ontario Student Transcript (OST) Manual 2003*, has been updated in draft form to reflect the changes in policy over the past four years. It is also available on the ministry web-site at [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca). This interim measure has been taken to provide secondary school principals and their staff with detailed guidelines for recording and reporting student achievement, consistent with current provincial policy on secondary school program and diploma requirements. A final version of the OST Manual will be released once a revised *Ontario Secondary Schools (OSS) Grades 9 to 12, Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999* is published, currently on track for release in the 2009-2010 school year.

**Original signed by:**

George Zegarac

Enclosures (3)