



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Cathy Montreuil
Chief Student Achievement Officer
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

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Assistant Deputy Minister
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DATE: November 27, 2017

SUBJECT: The Hour of Code Initiatives 2017-18

“Our schools are at the foundation of a fair and competitive Ontario. Our province's publicly funded education system ranks among the best in the world, preparing our students for academic and future success.”

Premier K. Wynne, September 7, 2017

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2017/09/updated-curriculum-new-report-cards-coming-to-ontario-schools.html>

As we work together to advance our efforts in support of modernizing our school system to unleash the full potential of every student, the ministry is pleased to continue its second year of support for Hour of Code and Computer Science Education Week, December 4-10, 2017.

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify “code”, to show that everyone can learn the basics, and to spark interest and broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science and computational thinking.

There has been much activity in the computational thinking/coding area and the ministry is looking to acknowledge, communicate and celebrate all of the work, in particular, in support of under-represented children and youth engagement. To that end, this year we continue to encourage you and your staff to consider highlighting the initiatives in your schools that further the development of computational skills by registering those schools in the Hour of Code.

Learning engagements for Year II support include:

- Webinars. Live educator webinars will be conducted pre and post Hour of Code <http://www.pirweb.org/en/hour-of-code-professional-development/>, as well as, webinars for students and educators during computer science education week <http://www.pirweb.org/en/hour-of-code/>
- Hour of Code. We will again be inviting district school boards to register and take part in Hour of Code and to highlight their work using #OntarioCodes
 - o If your board wishes to learn more about the Hour of Code and/or other coding opportunities, please visit the Hour of Code website at www.hourofcode.com/ca and www.hourofcode.com/ca/fr to register.
 - o By registering for the Hour of Code, Code.org is able to provide school registration information for participating provinces. Detailed information is provided about the activities that may be of interest to students (including activities that do not require technology), tips for educators who may wish to be involved, printable certificates, among other supports (www.hourofcode.com/ca/how-to and www.hourofcode.com/ca/fr/how-to).
- Celebrating Sector Practices and Innovation. With the growing interest in computational thinking/coding, there continues to be practises supported by local school board staff which may include school and system leaders, professional learning facilitators including Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching (TELT) Contacts, instructional leads, teacher-librarians, and classroom educators, to name a few. We look forward to celebrating computational thinking/coding activities all year long.

Schools, District School Boards and School Authorities may wish to continue to celebrate their own participation. To highlight the work you are doing, we encourage you to share using the hashtag **#OntarioCodes** throughout the year.

Thank you for your continuing support of our students as they develop transferable skills and global competencies.

Original Signed by

Cathy Montreuil

Denys Giguère

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