

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

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Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



November 21, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Strong partnerships and shared commitment have been the foundation of our success in making Ontario's education system one of the best in the world. Working together, we are one of the first education systems in the world to define and formalize an agreement on [Collaborative Professionalism \(PPM 159\)](#). We have seen that when professionals at all levels of the education system work together to share knowledge, skills and experience, we achieve the most for our students.

Through PPM 159 we have agreed on the need to take a more thoughtful and collaborative approach to new and existing initiatives. Collectively, we understand that some of our current expectations and practices are no longer relevant in today's context and may need to be stopped, adjusted or changed, while other expectations and best practices emerge.

From my conversations with you, I understand how important it is that we make real progress in this area. Last year, with your input, we streamlined a number of existing initiatives. For example, the Individual Education Plan (IEP) completed within the first 30 instructional days will now serve as the required review and update for the first reporting period of the elementary progress report. In addition, a number of mandatory requirements of the *Creating Pathways to Success: An Education and Career/Life Planning Program for Ontario Schools* were changed to optional strategies, including the K-6 "All About Me" portfolio and the elementary school-level Education and Career/Life Planning Program Advisory Committee. Finally, 11 separate initiatives were re-focused into the Renewed Mathematics Strategy.

But we know that there is much more to do. That's why the Initiatives Committee has re-committed itself to finding opportunities to streamline existing initiatives.

Streamlining and workload issues will be the focus of the agenda at our next meeting of the Provincial Committee on Ministry Initiatives on December 12, 2017. The ministry has provided your committee representatives with a [list of ongoing activities](#) and a [survey](#) that will gather information in order to provide context and support our discussion.

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Our focus will be on the items you identify as priorities. These may come from the list of ongoing activities or from your own awareness and the experience of your members.

We are committed to reviewing our initiatives, expectations and practices to ensure we are providing the best outcome for our students, staff and leaders across Ontario. Our continued collaboration in identifying our successes and our challenges will help us build on our past and offer a new path for our future.

The change that is described in PPM 159 will not come overnight or without a shared commitment to work together. I want to thank you for your dedication to Ontario's students and the publicly funded education system.

As always, I look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

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

Mitzie Hunter, MBA  
Minister

Cc: Members of the Provincial Committee on Ministry Initiatives