

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



Memorandum To: Directors of Education

From: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Date: October 8, 2015

Subject: 2015-16 School Year Calendar – Additional Professional Activity (PA) Day

I am writing to you with important information regarding an additional Professional Activity (PA) day for teachers represented by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), and l'association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO).

A key term of the settlements that have been successfully negotiated with the aforementioned federations is the provision of an additional PA day. This will contribute to our work towards the goals of *Achieving Excellence*. As such, it is important that the additional PA day is incorporated into the 2015-16 school year; one instructional day will be converted into a PA day, effective September 1, 2015. The minimum number of school days will remain unchanged at 194.

Ontario Regulation 304, "School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days", made under the *Education Act*, will need to be amended to reflect the new additional PA day in every school year. Regulation 304 sets out the requirements for school boards when planning school year calendars. The regulation currently requires that school boards dedicate two PA days per school year to provincial education priorities and may dedicate up to four additional PA days per school year. Any school days not designated as PA days shall be instructional days.

Work is underway on the required regulatory amendment. Once the regulation has been amended, I will provide you with direction on the revision of your 2015-16 calendars. Specific topics for the additional PA day will also be identified by the ministry. These topics will be differentiated based on demonstrated professional learning needs. The ministry will provide support and assistance to you as you complete the revision.

In closing, allow me to thank you and your staff for working so hard throughout these uncertain times to ensure that people and programs are in place to support student achievement and well-being. Your focus on children, youth and families is very much appreciated, and I look forward to working with you and advancing the goals of *Achieving Excellence*.

If you have any questions, please contact your Ministry Regional Office. A list of Regional Offices is attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Zegarac". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

George Zegarac

c: John Malloy, Assistant Deputy Minister
Leadership and Learning Environment Division

Demetra Saldaris, Director
Teaching Policy and Standards Branch

Steven Reid, Director
Field Services Branch

Regional Office Managers

Council of Ontario Directors of Education