

Ministry of Education

Special Education Policy
and Programs Branch
18th floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction des politiques et des
programmes de l'éducation
de l'enfance en difficulté
18^e étage, 900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



MEMORANDUM TO:

Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Director of Provincial and Demonstration Schools
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Léger

FROM:

Barry Finlay, Director
Special Education Policy and Programs Branch

Gerry Treble
Regional Manager (A)
London Regional Office

DATE:

October 19, 2009

SUBJECT:

**Information about Draft Guidelines and Regional
Projects on Assessing Achievement in Alternative Areas
(A4)**

In follow up to my memo from June 2009, I am pleased to inform you about initiatives on Assessing Achievement in Alternative Areas (A4) that are planned for this school year. The purpose of these initiatives is to support collaborative efforts in school boards to enhance provincial assessment processes for students with special education needs who do not access the Ontario curriculum and do not participate in EQAO assessments.

In response to recent recommendations from the Auditor General of Ontario and to further support the Ministry of Education's core priority to improve the achievement of all students, including students with special education needs, the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch (SEPPB) has:

- Conducted a provincial survey on the current methods being used in school boards to assess the achievement of the very few numbers of students who are in programs where none of the student's learning expectations are derived from the Ontario curriculum;
- Distributed provincial and regional results of the survey;
- Collected samples of reporting and data collection methods and professional development materials from boards; and
- Consulted with external stakeholder groups.

The purpose of this memo is to inform you about webinars that will be conducted by SEPPB to provide details on the attached draft guidelines and the regional projects that

will be funded in 2009-2010 to enhance practices in school boards on Assessing Achievement in Alternative Areas (A4).

Each school board will be asked to designate **one** lead staff person, such as the Superintendent of Special Education, to participate in two webinar sessions according to the schedule and login information provided below.

	Purpose	Date	Time
<u>Webinar 1</u>	To test webinar connections and provide context for upcoming webinar session.	October 28/09	English 10:00-10:15 French 11:00- 11:15
<u>Webinar 2</u>	To provide overview of A4 project and explain draft guidelines and regional projects.	October 30/09	English 10:00 -11:00 French 2:00 - 3:00

Join the webinar meetings at: <http://conn-o.osapac.org/a4/>

Enter as a *guest* and type *your name*

If you are having difficulty connecting, visit our troubleshooting page to test your connection.
http://conn-o.osapac.org/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

For technical support, please email Ian Gordon - ian.l.gordon@ontario.ca

The webinars will be interactive and the board designates will be invited to submit questions as well as respond to a few questions that will be posed during each session. Boards may wish to arrange for other staff to listen and view the presentation from the same station as the designated participant.

If you have any questions regarding these initiatives please contact:

Maureen Cox
Education Officer
416-326-5885
maureen.cox@ontario.ca

Michel Laverdière
Education Officer (Bilingual)
416-326-0963
Michel.laverdiere@ontario.ca

Thank you for your on-going work to support students with special education needs.

Original signed by

Barry Finlay

Original signed by

Gerry Treble

Attachments (1)