

Ministry of Education
Early Learning Division

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Ministère de l'Éducation
Division de l'apprentissage des
jeunes enfants

Édifice Mowat, 24^e étage
900, rue Bay
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: **Jim Grieve**
Assistant Deputy Minister,
Early Learning Division

DATE: October 29, 2009

SUBJECT: **Regional Sessions to Support Early Learning Implementation**

I am very pleased to forward this information to you as I begin my role as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Early Learning Division.

Recently you received details regarding the Early Learning Program (ELP) and your role in implementing full day learning for our youngest learners. As you know Premier Dalton McGuinty announced that the government will proceed with its commitment to invest \$200 million in 2010-11 and \$300 million in 2011-12 for the phased-in implementation of the Early Learning Program for four-and five-year –olds. The ELP will provide a smoother transition to grade 1, and help children develop the social and academic skills necessary to succeed in school and in life. The Ministry of Education is committed to working with school boards as they take on a leadership role to implement the ELP.

To begin the process for September 2010 implementation school board teams are being invited to participate in a regional session planned by the Early Learning Division and Regional Offices. One of the priorities for these sessions will be to build cross sector networks and further community relationships. Accordingly representatives from the Consolidated Municipal Services/District Social Services Administrative Board and regional staff from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services will also be participating.

These sessions will provide opportunities for district school boards, child care providers and municipalities to develop regional networks, begin to prepare implementation plans and receive assistance and support from the ministry to complete the school selection template. This is the first of many regional meetings and conversations to implement the ELP.

Each board is asked to identify a team who will attend the regional session and provide leadership for early learning in their board. It is suggested that board teams could include a supervisory officer responsible for early learning, an early learning program lead or elementary principal and a staff member from the facilities/operations area.

Prior to attending the regional sessions, board teams should review the following materials.

- Deputy Minister's Early Learning memorandum of October 27, 2009
- Memorandum 2009:B12 Early Learning Program Planning for 2010-11 and 2011-12
- Early Learning Program – Phase 1 – School Selection Template
- October 27, 2009 Webcast Slide Deck: *Implementing the Early Learning Program*

Regional sessions will include both French Language and English Language boards.
(note specific locations and times will be provided by the regional office shortly):

London Regional Office Boards

Date: Tuesday November 3

Contact: Gerry Treble

Telephone: 519-667-1440 x 245

Fax: 519-667-9769

Ottawa Regional Office Boards

Date: Wednesday November 4

Contact: Jacques Torjman

Telephone: 613-225-9210 x 245

Fax: 613-225-2881

Barrie Regional Office Boards

Date: Thursday November 5

Contact: Joan Fullerton

Telephone: 705-725-7631

Fax: 705-725-7635

Toronto and Area Regional Office Boards

Date: Friday November 6

Contact: Kathy Verduyn

Telephone: 416-314-8679

Fax: 416-325-4153

A videoconference will be organized for the Thunder Bay Regional Office Boards and Sudbury/North Bay Regional Office Boards. Details of the video conference arrangements are as follows:

Thunder Bay Regional Office Boards

Date: Monday November 9

Contact: Dawna Johnson

Telephone: 807-474-2987

Fax: 807-474-2999

Sudbury/North Bay Regional Office Boards,

Date: Tuesday November 10

Contact: Paul Menard

Telephone: 705-564-7165

Fax: 705-497-6896

Please complete the attached form and return it to the Regional Manager for your region no later than Monday, November 2, 2009.

Thank you for your participation and ongoing support of early learning.

Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister,
Early Learning Division