

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Student Success/Learning to 18
Strategic Policy Branch

Direction des politiques stratégiques
en matière de réussite des élèves et
jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans



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MEMORANDUM TO:

Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM:

Grant Clarke, Director,
Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch

Kirsten Parker, Director,
Student Success/Learning to 18 Implementation,
Training and Evaluation Branch

DATE:

October 17, 2008

SUBJECT:

Fall 2008 Regional Meetings for Board Teams on Expansion of
Cooperative Education

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Ministry, in partnership with Board Student Success Leaders, is holding fall regional information sessions for English-language boards on the expansion of cooperative education, one of the key strategies within the Student Success agenda. French-language boards attended an information session on the same topic in Toronto on October 1 and 2.

Cooperative education plays an important role in broadening the learning opportunities for students beyond the classroom, increasing student engagement in their learning, helping students graduate and allowing students to make smoother transitions to their post-secondary opportunities.

The benefits of cooperative education are prominent in a number of communications activities and resources under Student Success, including the September media campaign. As a result, it is anticipated that the demand for cooperative education will continue to grow as more students choose to meet two of their compulsory credits through co-op and all students within the Specialist High Skills Major take the two cooperative education credits which are one of the required components within the bundle of 8 to 10 credits in each sector.

The Ministry has developed an *Expansion of Cooperative Education Toolkit* and a provincial Employer Registry to assist boards and schools in expanding their programs to meet this need. Participants in the regional sessions will have an opportunity to review these resources, discuss the challenges they are facing and explore solutions with Ministry staff and other administrators and teachers within their board and region. They will also have an opportunity to hear about strategies and programs to expand co-op that are working.

Boards will be invited to send teams comprised of representatives of secondary school administrators, board leaders and cooperative education, guidance and/or student success teachers with the number of participants dependent upon the number of secondary schools in the board. The Passport to Prosperity Coordinators in each of the regions will also be invited to the sessions to join the discussions around expanding the employer base.

The invitation with the details including the date, location and the composition of the board teams will be sent from the Regional Office to your board's Student Success Leader within the next couple of weeks. The agendas for the day are being designed to minimize the need for overnight accommodation. Mileage expenses for participants will be covered by the Ministry.

Please contact Anne Sasman (416-325-2547) in SS/L18SPB or Jean Courtney (416-325-6185) SSL18ITEB if further information is required. Thank you for your continued support of this important initiative.

Grant Clarke

Kirsten Parker

cc: Kit Rankin
Ginette Plourde
Regional Office Managers
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