

October 31, 2008

Dear colleagues:

On October 17th, you received an email from Minister Wynne with information about an exciting new initiative called Student Voice that aims to engage students in their learning. This letter mentioned that we would be sending schools materials to help them promote Student Voice.

Shipments of these materials should begin arriving in schools with Grades 7 to 12 next week. Each school's shipment will contain 25 posters and enough minicards for each student in Grades 7 to 12 at the school.

SpeakUp posters

We are asking schools to put these up in high traffic areas where students are likely to see them and share copies with their student councils.

SpeakUp minicards

The ministry's goal is to reach *all* students with this invitation to be part of Student Voice. Minicards can be used as bookmarks and are small enough to fit easily into a wallet or back pocket. Schools will be asked to distribute one card to each student in Grades 7 to 12.

Student Voice is about hearing from students in Grades 7 to 12 and supporting their active engagement in school by:

- listening to their ideas and opinions about how they learn and what helps them learn,
- providing an environment where students can participate in decisions impacting their educational experience, and
- providing resources for student projects that lead to higher student engagement at school.

For application forms and more information, please visit www.ontario.ca/SpeakUp or contact studentengagement@ontario.ca.

We will be sending a similar email to principals and Student Success Leaders so that they are aware of these shipments.

Thank you for helping spread the word and for encouraging students to speak up.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Parker