

**Ministry of Education**

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Deputy Minister

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**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities  
Director of Provincial Schools

**FROM:** George Zegarac  
Deputy Minister

**DATE:** October 12, 2012

**RE:** **Open Access to the Ontario Physical Education Safety  
Guidelines (OSG)**

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I am writing to inform you that the Ontario Physical Education Safety Guidelines (OSG) are now available free-of-charge and without password protection to all school board staff, principals, teachers, coaches and parents in Ontario. I would ask for your support in sharing this information with your principals and all other members of your school community.

To access the OSG, please visit <http://safety.ophea.net> or contact [safety@ophea.net](mailto:safety@ophea.net).

The Ministry of Education is committed to working with you and all members of the education sector, including parents, to help ensure all children and youth in Ontario are able to succeed and lead safe, healthy and productive lives.

In response to recent student fatalities and accidents associated with school-based sports, the Ministry has been working to develop solutions to help ensure the safety of all students. Having taken into account expert input and the recommendations of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, I am pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached with the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA) to provide open access to the OSG.

In addition to the OSG, the following supports will continue to be available through OPHEA:

- "Ask an Expert" consultation services;
- a searchable FAQ database;
- interactive online safety workshops (webinars) and,
- safety news and research feeds.

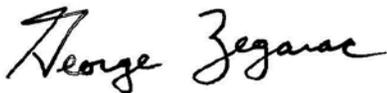
OPHEA updates the OSG annually and seeks continual input from boards and schools to help ensure that they are current. To compensate school boards that have already paid the bi-annual fee for the OSG, OPHEA is offering professional learning opportunities to support these boards when implementing the OSG, especially when training their new staff. OPHEA will contact school boards directly to discuss these opportunities in greater detail.

The Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange considers the OSG as a minimum standard for risk management practice by school personnel involved in physical activities for students. I encourage you to continue using the OSG as the basis for your school board curricular, intramural and interschool physical activity policies and procedures. I would ask that you emphasize with your school leaders and educators the importance of promoting and using the OSG in order to advance the safety of physical activities in schools. This message should also be shared with coaches and volunteers.

We all have a role to play to help ensure the safety of children and youth, inside and outside of the school setting, and for motivating them to assume responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the well-being of students in Ontario. I wish all of you an active and safe year in your schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Zegarac". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

George Zegarac

c. Ministry of Education Regional Managers