

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



Memorandum To: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Nancy Matthews
Deputy Minister

Date: September 19, 2016

Subject: Policy/Program Memorandum 160 on Protected Time for Daily Mathematics Instruction, Grades 1 to 8

Building on the goals in *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario*, the Ministry of Education is committed to helping students gain the math knowledge and skills they will need for the future.

I am writing to share the Policy/Program Memorandum 160 to highlight a key element of the strategy that includes the expectation to protect significant blocks of time daily for effective mathematics instruction of *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Mathematics*.

Starting in September 2016, 300 minutes per five day cycle — preferably in blocks of 60 minutes, but no less than 40 minutes — will be protected for teachers in Grades 1 to 8, to be able to focus on instruction in mathematics. Given that educators need to meet the needs of their students, and respecting local school contexts, the PPM gives flexibility to meet the expectation of a minimum of 300 minutes of mathematics instruction and assessment per 5-day cycle.

The ministry engaged in conversations with the sector through the mathematics sub-committee of the Provincial Committee on Ministry Initiatives. The mathematics sub-committee met twice to provide input into the development of PPM 160 to provide clarity around this element and advice about its implementation. With these in mind, the ministry will continue to work collaboratively in partnership with school boards and education partner associations to provide an integrated approach that is responsive to the mathematics learning and teaching experiences of children, students and educators.

PPM No. 160 is posted on the ministry website at www.edu.gov.on.ca

Resources to support the implementation of the PPM will be posted at www.edugains.ca/newsite/math/index.html in the coming weeks.

Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to increasing student achievement and strengthening the culture of collaboration in the publicly funded education system in Ontario.

If you have any questions, please contact your ministry regional office. A list of regional offices is attached for your convenience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Matthews', written in a cursive style.

Nancy Matthews

Enclosure

C: Cathy Montreuil, Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

Janine Griffore, Assistant Deputy Minister
French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division

Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister
Learning and Curriculum Division