

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



September 19, 2016

Dear Chairs,

Earlier this year, our [government announced Ontario's renewed math strategy](#) to help support our students, teachers, schools and boards. Today, I am writing to share with you the attached Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 160, that the ministry is sending to school boards.

The ministry received input from our partners through the Provincial Committee on Ministry Initiatives' mathematics sub-committee, which has been reflected in the PPM.

As we work with educators and school leaders to implement this strategy, we will continue to engage in conversations with our education partners.

Studies confirm that students who spend more time in math classes perform better. We know from research that the optimum amount of time for mathematics learning and teaching is four to six hours per week. For many classrooms, this is already the norm. School boards are expected to protect a block of time during every school day for teachers to focus on mathematics instruction. Starting in September, 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. This focused instructional time will provide the opportunity for educators to nurture a community and culture of math practice and problem solving, both of which help students develop their skills.

The ministry will be offering professional learning support and resources to help teachers successfully provide mathematics instruction during protected learning times. The Ministry of Education will also provide resources to help parents support their children in learning math.

Ontario is a leader when it comes to student achievement. Our students continue to perform better than most peers in international assessments in reading, science and mathematics. However, the new global economy demands more for all students, so we must strive for even better results. As such, the renewed mathematics strategy underscores our government's goal to prepare our students for a productive and successful future.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to helping Ontario students succeed.

Sincerely,

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

Mitzie Hunter, MBA
Minister

Enclosure

C: Directors of Education