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

FROM: Martyn Beckett
Assistant Deputy Minister
Learning and Curriculum Division

DATE: September 8, 2016

SUBJECT: Special Education Information

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with information to support students with special education needs.

As part of the central agreement with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), and the Crown, the Crown agreed to establish a committee to collaboratively discuss current issues related to supporting students with special education needs. Following cooperative and productive discussions throughout the spring of 2016, the committee submitted a recommendation letter to the Minister of Education on June 30, 2016 that included items relating to IEP development and reporting, Professional Activity Days, educator training, funding and professional support personnel for the Minister's consideration.

As a result of efforts by all parties, a commitment was made by the ministry to support school boards and educators with their understanding of the expectations for Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The ministry has agreed to revise the IEP guidelines/resources to reflect current pedagogy found in resources including but not limited to *"Learning for All: A Guide to Effective Assessment and Instruction for All Students, Kindergarten to Grade 12"*, *"Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools"* and *"Creating Pathways to Success: An Education and Career/Life Planning Program for Ontario Schools"*. The IEP guidelines and resources will clarify ministry expectations for IEP initiation, development and discontinuation.

Furthermore, the ministry has committed to exploring the ability for IEPs created within the first 30 days of the school year to serve as the IEP updated for the progress report card.

I trust that you will find this information helpful to support students with special education needs.

Sincerely,

Martyn Beckett
Assistant Deputy Minister
Learning and Curriculum Division

- cc. Karen Gill, Director, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch, Curriculum and Learning Division
Steven Reid, Director, Field Services Branch, French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division
Denys Giguère, Director, French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch, French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division
Sandra Bickford, Director, Student Success Policy Branch, Student Achievement Division
Frank Kelly, Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education