

Ministry of Education

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
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Ministère de l'Éducation

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Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Cathy Montreuil
Chief Student Achievement Officer and
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister
French-Language Teaching, Learning and
Achievement Division

Martyn Beckett
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Support and Field Services Division

DATE: September 15, 2017

SUBJECT: System Improvement Learning Cycle/
Cycle d'amélioration systémique et d'apprentissage

The System Improvement Learning Cycle (SILC) / Cycle d'amélioration systémique et d'apprentissage (CASA) process was introduced in September 2016, as an evolution of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) formal visits. This change allows for a differentiated intentional, collaborative and reciprocal approach to supporting boards' needs based on reflective dialogues about the instructional core and a *learning as we go* working partnership. The ministry acts as a critical friend, considering challenges of practice, areas of focus and opportunities to engage in focused inquiry, and provides differentiated responses aligned with the specific needs and contexts of boards, schools and classrooms. We will continue to follow the SILC/CASA process for the 2017-18 school year.

Boards will continue to develop and submit a BIPSA, even in draft form, to BIPforSA@ontario.ca by the end of September 2017 and update accordingly. This plan will provide a key component of the SILC/CASA process.

The SILC/CASA process promotes the following principles:

- Flexibility and continuous entry points; reflective dialogues with board and ministry teams may occur at any agreed upon time.

- Aligning ministry staff with professional learning and collaborative inquiry opportunities to engage in co-reflecting, co-planning and co-learning to match expertise and continued focus on priority areas/action items and challenges of practice.
- Leadership for Learning and PPM 159 on Collaborative Professionalism are foundational components of this process.
- The core regional SILC/CASA team includes the Field Services Branch (FSB) Regional Manager and the regional Team Lead for the Student Achievement Supports Branch (Student Achievement Division). To support the flexibility of the teams, other cross-ministry expertise will be accessed based on areas of focus for boards. French-Language Education, Policies and Programs Branch and FSB will form teams to work with our French-language boards.
- The Renewed Mathematics Strategy (RMS) will continue to be embedded within this process allowing for targeted reflections about the implementation of the strategy and monitoring for impact. Embedded within the RMS, there will be an intentional focus on:
 - The development of the whole learner (cognitive, social, emotional, physical, self/spirit) through the day-to-day teaching, learning and assessment interactions in school, as outlined in the Minister's [announcement](#) on September 5, 2017.
 - The implementation of Ontario's recently launched [Education Equity Action Plan](#), which serves as the Province's blueprint for identifying and eliminating discriminatory practices, systemic barriers and biases from schools and classrooms.
 - The achievement, engagement and well-being of Indigenous students across Ontario.
- System Implementation and Monitoring (SIM) intersects with SILC/CASA and the RMS. The overall focus of SIM is to assist boards with the implementation and monitoring of their BIPSA, specifically around the RMS.

In September 2017, the SILC/CASA teams will be initiating conversations with boards in an effort to more deeply understand your systems' strengths and needs within the RMS implementation process.

We look forward to continuing this way of learning together and further developing our collective learning culture that we know is instrumental in realizing the goals of the renewed vision, *Achieving Excellence*, and improving student achievement, equity and well-being for all students in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Cathy Montreuil

Original signed by

Denys Giguère

Original signed by

Martyn Beckett

cc. Executive Directors of all provincial associations, federations and unions
Denise Dwyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Education and Well Being
Division
Richard Franz, Assistant Deputy Minister, System Planning, Research and
Innovation Division
Steven Reid, Director, Field Services Branch, Student Support and Field Services
Division
Bruce Shaw, Director, Student Achievement Supports Branch, Student
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