

Ministry of Education
Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic
Policy Branch

Ministère de l'Éducation
Direction des politiques stratégiques en matière
de réussite des élèves et d'apprentissage
jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans



French-Language Education
Policy and Programs Branch

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Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Policy Development and Program Design
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Ministère des Services à l'enfance et à la
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Division de l'élaboration des programmes et des
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Child Welfare Secretariat
101 Bloor Street West, 3rd Floor
Toronto ON M5S 2Z7

Secrétariat au bien-être de l'enfance
101, rue Bloor Ouest, 3^e étage
Toronto ON M5S 2Z7

September 10, 2010

RE: Invitation to Regional Cross Sector Meeting: Improving Educational Outcomes for Children and Youth in the Care of Children's Aid Societies

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, the Ministries of Education (EDU), and Children and Youth Services (MCYS) are committed to improving educational outcomes and increasing the number of children and youth in the care of children's aid societies (CASs) who graduate from high school.

On November 12, 2009, a cross-sector meeting in Toronto brought together the education and child welfare sectors with the goal of developing practical solutions to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in CAS care. A similar meeting was held in northern Ontario on March 3, 2010. At these meetings, the two sectors were called to action to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in care. The sectors were also requested to report back on their progress in 2010.

As we strengthen our work to support these students to succeed in school, we understand the importance of frequent and open communication. To that end, EDU and MCYS would like to invite two senior-level representatives from each District School Board (DSB), including the Student Success Leader, and each CAS to attend a ***Regional Cross Sector Meeting on Improving Educational Outcomes for Children and Youth in the Care of CASs*** to be held in **October 2010**. Senior-level representatives who previously participated in the Toronto or northern Ontario cross-sector meetings or who are leading the work to improve educational outcomes for Crown Wards and other children and youth in CAS care, are strongly encouraged to attend.

The purpose of this half day regional meeting is to:

- Provide the education and child welfare sectors with an update on the ministries' progress to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in care;
- Provide an opportunity for DSBs and CASs to report back on their progress to date;
- Provide a forum for a regionally-focussed discussion that continues to enhance knowledge of each sector's work, identify opportunities to work together, share best practices and achieve improved educational outcomes for children and youth in care.

EDU and MCYS will document and use the information collected at these meetings to assess the progress made across the province in order to inform future policy development and initiatives.

The attached appendix outlines the details for each regional cross sector meeting. There are six regional meetings. Each DSB and associated CAS has been assigned to one regional meeting. Please confirm your participation according to your **organization's assigned regional session** by **September 24, 2010** to Angela Hurlock at **Angela.Hurlock@ontario.ca**. Travel expenses will be covered in accordance with Ministry guidelines, for those who attend their assigned regional meeting.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sandra Bickford, Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch, Ministry of Education, at **Sandra.Bickford@ontario.ca** or Esma Trejic, Child Welfare Secretariat, Ministry of Children and Youth Services at **Esma.Trejic@ontario.ca**

We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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Student Success/Learning to
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Ministry of Education

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Director
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