



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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September 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

SUBJECT: Ministry of Education - Key Initiatives for 2017-2022

Today the Minister of Education and the Premier announced the government's next steps in its intention to meet the objectives in the "Achieving Excellence" strategy. Below is a summary of the key initiatives outlined in today's announcement.

Well-Being Strategy

The Minister of Education outlined the next steps in the Well-Being strategy that was originally announced on September 5, 2017. This includes funding for various well-being programs such as active transportation, breakfast programs and bullying prevention. It also includes \$49 million over three years to support student well-being, including:

- Increasing support for school boards' local well-being priorities from \$6 to \$12 million starting in the 2018-19 school year,
- Increasing funding for School Mental Health ASSIST by \$6 million over the next three years,
- \$6 million in new and expanding programming to support staff well-being and classroom violence prevention,
- Roughly \$4 million to expand active transportation options for students to and from school, and funding for other programs and supports to promote student well-being.

Curriculum Review

The key initiative is a review and public consultation related to the Kindergarten to grade 12 school curriculum. The goal of the government's consultation and "refresh" of the curriculum is to better integrate the objectives of excellence, student well-being and equity into a revised curriculum that provides students the skills and knowledge needed for success in the global economy. These skills will include:

- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Global citizenship skills.

This curriculum review will include changes in the design of student assessments and report cards which will be introduced in schools for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The Premier indicated that the timeline for the curriculum review will be three to five years. As part of the student assessment review component of the overall curriculum review, Professor Carol Campbell will lead an advisory group in this area. The Minister also made clear that all education partners will be consulted on all aspects of the curriculum and student assessment review.

Next Steps

Later this week the Minister will announce the “Education Equity Action Plan” as part of the review of the Achieving Excellence strategy. This plan will identify and attempt to eliminate discriminatory practices, systemic barriers and bias from schools to ensure student success. Further details will be shared once the Education Equity Action Plan is publically available.

OCSTA will carefully monitor this important matter and take every opportunity to participate throughout the consultation process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to me or contact Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachment