



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

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May 15, 2017

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

**FROM:** Patrick J. Daly, President

**SUBJECT: Broadband Modernization Strategy Update**

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On Monday May 15, 2017, the Minister of Education announced an investment of \$50 million in its program entitled “Broadband Access for all Students Initiative”. The overall objective of the initiative is to enhance broadband connectivity and access to ensure students from every region of the province have equitable access to online information, courses and resources needed for 21st century learning. The broadband infrastructure upgrades will include:

- Investing in new fibre optic infrastructure to connect schools to an internet service provider;
- Improving network capacity to handle large amounts of data required to use new technologies in the classroom;
- Ensuring a broadband speed of 1 Megabit per second per student and updating the network design to be more student-friendly by the 2017-18 school year.

The initiative is being rolled out in three phases. Phase 1 will impact 182 schools immediately providing 1 Megabit per student connectivity. The second phase will begin in 2017-18 and will include more than 1,000 schools across Ontario. As you will see from the background, a large number of Catholic schools from all across Ontario are involved in this initiative.

OCSTA has advocated for enhanced support for broadband access for all Catholic school boards in its recent finance brief to the Minister of Education. This advocacy initiative has been one of the top priorities for OCSTA in recent years.

For further information please contact Steve Andrews, at [sandrews@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:sandrews@ocsta.on.ca).

*Attachment*