



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

P.O. Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Patrick Daly, *President*
Beverley Eckensweiler, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

February 12, 2018

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

SUBJECT: **Revised Pupil Accommodation Guideline Draft**

As you are aware, in June 2017 the Ministry of Education launched its phased consultation process to strengthen rural and northern education. Part of the process included a review of the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) and the Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (CPPG). In the fall, the Ministry established a working group to review and make recommendations on the PARG and CCPG involving OCSTA and other municipal and education stakeholders. Based on this input, the Ministry has released a revised PARG. The proposed changes include:

- Requiring boards to explore at least three accommodation options in the initial staff report including a status quo option, a recommended option and an alternative option. These options must address four impacts: student programs, student well-being, school board resources and impact on the local community;
- Allowing more opportunity for public input by requiring more meetings and extended timelines;
- Limiting the use of modified pupil accommodation reviews (MPARS);
- Strengthening the role for secondary students;
- Integrating the administrative review process into the PARG and the addition of e-signatures to the petition process.

In addition, the Ministry will work with education and municipal stakeholders to develop a new toolkit and resources to support boards in conducting pupil accommodation reviews to promote increased collaboration and community understanding. This information will be provided to stakeholders in the fall of 2018 and include standardized data requirements.

These changes reflect some of the key recommendations made by OCSTA in its December 4, 2017 submission. Specifically, maintaining the option of using MPARS in select circumstances, not requiring the disclosure of municipal participation in meetings and providing boards additional resources for community consultation.

Next Steps

The Ministry will continue to seek feedback on the revised PARG (see attached) until **March 23, 2018**. We have attached our December 4th submission for your reference and strongly encourage you to send comments to the Ministry on the draft revised PARG (information.met@ontario.ca).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachments