



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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May 3, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: E-Learning Policy Framework Information Request

As you are aware, on March 15, 2019 the Minister of Education outlined a number of significant education policy changes that are of concern to OCSTA. Chief among those issues is the mandatory, centrally controlled e-learning course requirements for secondary students.

At a recent board meeting, OCSTA Directors discussed key concerns among Catholic schools regarding the e-learning mandate that is part of the government's plan to "modernize learning in Ontario's publicly funded education system." Those concerns include:

- The impact on the distinctiveness of Catholic education;
- Request that Catholic teachers be teaching Catholic students;
- The impact on student access to e-learning programs - inadequate broadband Internet capacity across the province will limit access in some areas;
- The impact of mandatory e-learning courses on student achievement – not all students are able to learn in this format.

In an effort to enhance OCSTA's advocacy efforts regarding this e-learning policy framework and its impact on boards, we are asking boards to forward to us any specific concerns they may have. With this feedback, OCSTA will then develop a comprehensive position document outlining current practices and the challenges and opportunities with regard to e-learning.

Please forward your responses to Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Steve Andrews if you have any questions.