



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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July 29, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

**SUBJECT: Education Service and Reverse Tuition Agreements with Indigenous Students:
Update on Implementation for September 1, 2019**

As you are aware, amendments were made to sections 185 and 188 of the *Education Act* in 2018 to establish a new “Reciprocal” Education approach between school boards and First Nations communities. These amendments come into force on September 1, 2019. Section 185 will enable students of a school board living off First Nations reserves to attend a First Nations school located on or off reserves. These are referred to as “Reverse Education Service Agreements (“RESAs”). Section 188 will address circumstances where First Nations students living on reserves wish to attend a school operated by a school board. These are referred to as “Education Service Agreements” (“ESAs”).

In order to implement the legislative amendments, the Ministry of Education has been working closely with key education stakeholders, including representatives of OCSTA, since late 2017 to develop regulatory provisions necessary for these changes to take effect. The discussions of the working group covered many areas of concern to both school boards and First Nations communities. For example, the working group discussed school board issues related to fees, processes for entering into RESAs/ESAs, costs of special education services for students and how boards may reduce the fees it pays to First Nations communities that are in arrears.

On Friday July 26, the attached memorandum from the Deputy Minister was sent to OCSTA and Directors of Education to update the sector on proposed regulations that govern RESAs/ESAs.

Next Steps

The Ministry of Education will distribute to all boards, communication materials explaining the details of the regulatory requirements prior in mid August, 2019. At the present time, the regulations have not been approved by cabinet and so are confidential drafts only.

If you have any questions, or for further information, please contact Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachments