



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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November 29, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: Ministry of Education Review of Bullying Policies

On Wednesday November 27, 2019, the Minister of Education announced five new measures with the intent to prevent bullying in Ontario schools. The Ministry's objective is to improve student safety and well-being.

The measures include:

1. Establish an advisory position to the Minister of Education on bullying prevention with PC MPP Christina Mitas as the advisor;
2. Conduct a province-wide survey of students regarding their experiences with bullying;
3. Expand training for educators in anti-bullying and de-escalation actions;
4. Conduct a review of school reporting practices on bullying;
5. Institute a review of the definition of bullying in ministry policies to ensure it reflects today's realities.

The advisor on bullying prevention will consult with education stakeholders and provide short-term and long-term strategies in an effort to better manage bullying, while ensuring students have the resources and supports to ensure their safety and well-being.

Next Steps

OCSTA will consult with our members to develop a "best practices" resource document on bullying prevention to share with the bullying prevention advisor, MPP Christina Mitas, and senior officials within the Ministry of Education.

We would respectfully ask that you send any examples of success your board has with bullying prevention and management to Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.