

February 8, 2022

Memorandum to: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject: Professional Activity Days for the 2022-23 School Year

We are writing to provide direction on the topics for the three mandatory Professional Activity (PA) days for the 2022-23 school year.

The ministry recognizes the importance of professional learning, which is an important tool that helps provide educators with greater knowledge and skills to effectively support all students and children. For the 2022-23 school year, mandatory PA days will focus on priority areas of learning recovery; student and school safety; teaching competencies in science, technology, engineering and math; and equity. The specific topics for 2022-23 school year PA days under these priority areas are as follows:

Learning Recovery

- Learning recovery and renewal
- Student mental health and well-being
- Early reading and mathematics
- Supporting de-streamed classrooms

Student and School Safety

- Ontario College of Teachers' (OCT) [Sexual Abuse Prevention Program](#)
- Anti-sex trafficking and cyber protection
- Supporting students with prevalent medical conditions in schools ([PPM 161](#))

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

- STEM education, including new STEM-related curricula (elementary science and technology, grade 9 de-streamed science, and connections to skilled trades and apprenticeships)
- Connections to skilled trades and apprenticeships

Equity and inclusive education should be applied in an integrated manner across all professional learning topics or as focused learning topics. At a minimum, these should include:

- Special education and supporting students with disabilities
- Anti-racism and anti-discrimination

Ontario Regulation 304 allows each school board to determine the timing of its PA days. This should be done with adherence to any provisions in the local terms of Collective Agreements. Boards are required to submit an outline of their PA day activities through the [OSYC application](#) no later than August 15, 2022. With this in mind, boards are encouraged to allot one day for each priority area (Learning Recovery, Student and School Safety, STEM), integrated with equity-focused learning as described above.

As of January 1, 2022, current and reinstating OCT members are required to successfully complete the OCT's Sexual Abuse Prevention Program by September 15, 2022. All new and returning applicants are required to successfully complete the Program in order to be eligible for OCT certification. The Program is offered entirely online, and it can be completed over multiple sessions. Successful completion of the Program would be noted on each teacher's public register to serve as a tool for transparency.

As such, the ministry encourages school boards to designate time for teachers to complete the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program during one of the mandatory PA days prior to September 15, 2022. School boards may consider scheduling this topic in rotations or cohorts to ensure effective implementation. Please visit the [OCT website](#) for additional information on the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program.

Barring any significant barriers, boards are also encouraged to schedule a PA day to coincide with the date of the 2022 municipal and school board elections on Monday, October 24, in collaboration with coterminous boards and municipal clerks.

Recognizing that school boards are experts in professional learning and have the knowledge and experience to focus on the unique needs of their communities, boards will be responsible for the content and delivery of the PA day topics, which can be addressed in an integrated manner. For the PA day topic on the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program, boards should direct teachers to the online Program developed by the OCT in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. The ministry will release key messages and a list of curated resources on the mandatory topics to Directors of Education in advance of the 2022-23 school year. This will assist school boards in developing professional learning supports.

The ministry will continue to work with school boards and education partners to provide ongoing support that responds to needs that arise as the school year progresses.

I appreciate your collaboration in supporting professional learning for educators and staff across the province.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lecce

Nancy Naylor

Minister

Deputy Minister

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