

**June 13, 2023**

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

From:                               Stephen Lecce  
  Minister of Education

  Nancy Naylor  
  Deputy Minister of Education

Subject:                            ***The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023***  
  **receives Royal Assent**

We are pleased to share that *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023* (the Act) received Royal Assent on June 8, 2023 and is now law. This bill will help strengthen accountability, lift standards and student outcomes in our schools, and focus the system on boosting fundamental skills. By working together, we know better is possible for all Ontario students.

The *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023* will help to re-focus Ontario's education system on student achievement, prioritizing hands-on learning and developing skills in reading, writing and math. It will help us continue our efforts to modernize our education system by unifying its focus on student achievement, putting highly qualified educators in the classroom and strengthening the voice of parents to enable students to succeed in life and work. The key elements of the Act are summarized in the enclosed Appendix A, as well as the effective dates for each provision.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your feedback on the Act. We have listened, and will continue to listen, to your helpful insights and suggestions for building a modern education system that ensures the success of students and offers greater consistency and transparency to families across the province. Through the legislative process, some amendments were made to the Bill in response to sector feedback, to provide clarity and greater flexibility in some areas, as the ministry looks ahead to working with the sector on implementation. These amendments are summarized in the enclosed Appendix B.

The ministry is committed to engaging key sector partners to support successful implementation. This includes consulting on the new or amended regulations to be developed in the coming months, to support the legislative amendments made through the Act.

As a first step, the ministry has posted information related to three priority regulations under the *Education Act* on Ontario's Regulatory Registry for public comment by July 12, 2023. The registry can be accessed using the website links below. These proposed regulations would be in place before the start of the 2023-24 school year, so we are asking school boards to begin planning for their implementation. The regulations will provide further detail on requirements related to the following:

**Provincial Education Priorities on Student Achievement:**

The regulation will outline provincial priorities for student achievement, which school boards would be required to adopt in their multi-year plans to help drive student outcomes. This regulation will be supported by a Student Achievement Plan tool that includes system-wide performance indicators, and guidance on how boards will be expected to integrate the priorities into their multi-year planning process, engage their school communities, and report on progress annually.

[The Education Act as amended by The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 - Supporting Regulation: Provincial Priorities - Student Achievement](#)

**Professional Activity (PA) Days:**

The regulation will outline requirements for school boards to offer greater transparency for parents and families by posting a clear outline of PA Day providers, topics, content and activities on a public-facing school board website and provide the same information to the ministry as part of the existing Ontario School Year Calendar submission process. Information would include such things as: guest speakers, published resources, and the organizer and/or facilitator for the learning session. The ministry will also update the applicable Policy and Program Memorandum (PPM 151) to align with this direction and support school boards with implementation.

[The Education Act as amended by The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 - Supporting Regulations: Professional Activity Day Transparency](#)

**Transitional Certificate for Eligible Teacher Candidates:**

The ministry recognizes the importance of having a stable supply of teachers to support students and school boards, and the success of the Temporary Certificate model. Temporary Certificate models were implemented on a time-limited basis and expire on December 31, 2023. To this end, the ministry is working with the Ontario College of

Teachers to create a permanent pathway for eligible teacher candidates to work as a teacher while finishing their Initial Teacher Education program through a transitional certification. Regulatory amendments under the *Education Act* will be required to support this new certificate.

[The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 - Consequential Regulation Amendment: Transitional Certificate](#)

As always, we want to thank you for your continued collaboration and ongoing commitment to the students of Ontario. We understand that the Act puts forward significant and transformative change that will require a robust change management approach, and we look forward to working with you in the months ahead to ensure successful, phased implementation of these important reforms.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lecce  
Minister

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

Attachments:

- Appendix A: Overview of Bill 98: *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*
- Appendix B: Overview of Amendments to Bill 98 made during the Standing Committee Process

C: President, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)

Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)

President, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)

Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)

President, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)

Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA)

President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)

President, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)

Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)

President, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)

General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)

President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)

General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)

President, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)

General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)

Chair, Ontario Council of Education Workers (OCEW)

Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)

President of OSBCU, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)

Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)

Executive Director, Association de directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)

Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)

Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)