MEMORANDUM TO: English-Language Directors of Education

FROM: George Zegarac
       Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: June 20, 2006

RE: Participation in the e-Learning Pilot Project

The purpose of this memorandum is to invite your school board to participate in the e-learning pilot project.

In December, the Ontario government announced the e-learning pilot project as part of the launch of the Rural Student Success Program. It is a component of a broader education priority to provide students with more high quality choices to customize their education based on their individual strengths and interests. E-Learning courses and resources will help the ministry reach its targets of an 85 per cent graduation rate by 2010 and 75 per cent of 12-year-olds meeting or exceeding the provincial literacy and numeracy tests by 2008.

The ministry is providing a common provincial platform to boards that choose to participate in the e-learning pilot. This platform consists of a Learning Management System that provides access to online courses and includes common administrative and communication tools. Participating boards are given initial training on how to use this platform, and a bilingual help desk that students and teachers can call five days a week if they are having technical difficulties.

Boards participating in the e-learning pilot have access to provincial online courses developed by teachers from across the province. E-learning teachers are able to customize these courses to meet their local needs. The attachment lists the online courses that will be available to school boards by September 2006.

Currently, there are 11 boards participating in the e-learning pilot, which represents over 800 e-learning students. Many more boards will be joining by September 2006.

The e-learning pilot will also provide boards with access to a Learning Object Repository (LOR). The LOR is essentially a library with digital resources linked to the provincial secondary and elementary curriculum. It will have numerous applications, including providing teachers with resources to support Credit Recovery. The LOR will be made available to all provincially funded school boards by September 2006.

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Finally, another support for boards participating in the e-learning pilot is professional development. E-Learning Ontario is providing initial pedagogical and technical training to an appropriate number of e-learning teachers. As well e-learning teachers have access to self-paced online professional development resources, and a site where they can share best practices.

The e-Learning Ontario website at [www.elearningontario.ca](http://www.elearningontario.ca) provides more information on the e-Learning pilot project.

If your board is interested in joining the e-learning pilot, please contact Baiba St. John, Senior Manager, e-Learning Ontario, at 416-314-1591, or baiba.stjohn@edu.gov.on.ca

George Zegarac
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attach.

cc: Dominic Giroux, ADM, French-Language Education & Educational Operations Division
    Ginette Plourde, Director, French-Language Education Policy & Programs Branch
    Sue Durst, Acting Director, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch
    Baiba St. John, Senior Manager, eLO
    Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
    Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools
    Managers of Regional Offices