MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

FROM: Aryeh Gitterman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Instruction and Leadership Development Division
Ministry of Education

Trinela Cane
Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy Development and Program Design Division
Ministry of Children and Youth Services

DATE: December 18, 2006

SUBJECT: Model Projects to Promote Positive Student Behaviour

The Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services are writing to invite you to submit proposals for the 2006-07 school year to expand and/or enhance existing programs and practices that promote positive student behaviour, and provide a safe environment for learning so that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As you are aware, the Safe Schools Action Team (SSAT) provided advice to the government on school safety issues in its report, Safe Schools Policy and Practice: An Agenda for Action in June of this year. The SSAT report identified the need for the Ministry of Education to work collaboratively with other Ministries to focus on both prevention and intervention programs for students. It states that schools should use prevention and early intervention strategies that are inclusive, actively involving students, parents, the school and community, support existing partnerships and establish new partnerships. Through the Model Projects, the government is providing an opportunity to school boards and school authorities in the 2006-07 school year to expand and/or enhance current programs and practices that address these recommendations.

The Model Projects initiative is a first step in obtaining information on effective practices that promote positive student behaviour and build and sustain a safe learning environment for all students.

Regional working sessions will be held across the province in January 2007 for interested school boards/school authorities and any of their community partners. These sessions will help school boards/school authorities prepare quality proposals for Model Projects in 2006-07. School boards/school authorities are encouraged to invite their community partners to these sessions.
Staff from the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services will be available to facilitate the discussions. The sessions are intended to be collaborative opportunities for school boards/school authorities to share current practices, discuss their proposed plans to enhance/expand their current programs, resolve issues, and build on existing partnerships and linkages. It would be helpful if interested school boards/school authorities send representatives to these working sessions who are knowledgeable about the promotion of positive student behaviour and your Student Success initiatives.

The Model Projects Application Forms will be shared with participants at these sessions and school boards/school authorities will be invited to develop proposals and submit projects that deliver on one or a combination of the following selection criteria:

- Provide prevention programs and/or practices for all students that address behaviour that hinders students from achieving success.
- Provide early intervention programs and/or practices for students who are at-risk of suspension and/or expulsion.
- Provide program support and re-integration strategies for suspended/limited expelled students.
- Build partnerships and linkages with community agencies and/or treatment providers (e.g., mental health services, behaviour management, recreational and community programs and individual counselling).
- Improve decision making processes so that students’ needs are recognized early on and in a timely manner for school board and community based services.
- Engage students and parents in encouraging and supporting positive school behaviour.

You will be provided with detailed information on the regional working sessions by December 22, 2006. In the interim, Ministry of Education’s Regional Offices are available to answer any questions (see contact list attached to the Proposal Guide).

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services will review proposals and select projects for funding based on the selection criteria as set out in the attached Proposal Guide. Each Model Project selected for funding by the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services will be part of an evaluation to be conducted by an external independent evaluator to inform on effective practices.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support in helping all Ontario’s students succeed. We trust you will give the enclosed information serious consideration.

Arya Gitterman  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Instruction and Leadership Development Division  
Ministry of Education  

Trinela Cane  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Policy Development and Program Design Division  
Ministry of Children and Youth Services  

Enclosures (1)
cc: Ben Levin
Deputy Minister of Education

Judith Wright
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Dominic Giroux
Assistant Deputy Minister
French-Language Education and
Educational Operations Division
Ministry of Education

Alexander Beznya
Assistant Deputy Minister
Program Management Division;
Ministry of Community and Social Services

Kit Rankin
Director
Field Services Branch
Strategic Planning and Elementary/
Secondary Programs Division
Ministry of Education

Regional Directors
Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Regional Managers
French-Language Education and
Educational Operations
Ministry of Education