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

FROM: Grant Clarke
Kirsten Parker

DATE: October 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Regional Training Sessions for Board OSS and Grade 8 to Grade 9 Transition Planning Teams

The purpose of this memorandum is to follow up a September memo from George Zegarac and Dominic Giroux to you on the Student Success Strategy 2006-07, and to inform you that the Ministry of Education will be holding a series of regional training sessions across the province in November for Board teams on the revisions to Ontario Secondary Schools Policy (1999) and for a continuation of Grade 8 to Grade 9 Transition Planning. These Sessions will be held over two days.

The Day 1 OSS training will begin at 12:00 with lunch and will end at 4:00p.m. The focus of the training is on information and resources for boards to use in preparing to implement the revised secondary school policy and program requirements which will be rolled out in OSS'07 in the spring for implementation in September 2007. Training will include new program components such as the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) and expanded cooperative education. The Ministry invites you to send a board team composed of: 1 Supervisory Officer (preferably Curriculum or Program Services), 1 Guidance Leader, 1 Secondary School Principal, 1 Elementary School Principal, the Student Success Leader, and 1 Co-operative Education representative, for a total of six representatives whose expenses will be paid by the Ministry. In the evening of Day 1, Student Success Leaders and 1 Supervisory Officer from each board will meet to prepare for the Day 2 program on Grade 8 to 9 Transition Planning.

The focus of the Day 2 training is on reviewing the transition training deliverables, providing board teams the opportunity to demonstrate where they are with this initiative, plan for next steps and look to sustainability. The composition of the Transition Planning team will consist of: 1 Supervisory Officer (preferably Curriculum or Program Services), 1 Guidance Leader, 1 Secondary School Principal, 1 Elementary School Principal, the Student Success Leader, 1 Special Education/Resource representative, 2 grade 7/8 teachers, 2 grade 9 teachers and 2 student success teachers, for a total of 12 representatives.
Enclosed is a draft of the agenda for the 2 days, dates and locations where each session will be held. The first session will be held in the Barrie region on Tuesday, November 7th.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the many components of the Student Success Strategy. We look forward to your support for the ministry-sponsored professional learning event in November. We appreciate that this will represent a significant investment of your staff’s time but feel that the sessions are essential to ensuring that boards have the necessary information to move forward with planning and implementation of key elements of Student Success Phase 3, including further expansion of co-operative education, phased implementation of the Specialist High Skills Major and next steps in Grade 8 to 9 Transitions Planning.

We look forward to working together with your board team in our collective efforts to increase opportunities and support for greater numbers of young people to achieve success in secondary education.

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Encl.

c: George Zegarac  
Dominic Giroux  
Ginette Plourde  
Kit Rankin  
Regional Managers  
Student Success Leaders