MEMORANDUM TO:

Directors of Education
Director of Provincial Schools — ECD
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities
Principals of Elementary Schools
Principals of Secondary Schools
Principals of First Nation Elementary Schools

FROM: Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister

DATE: April 22, 2010


The ministry is committed to providing supports for the Literacy and Numeracy and Student Success initiatives. Included in these supports are policies for assessing, evaluating, and reporting student achievement to maintain a high-quality education system that helps ensure success for all students.

In January 2008, the Minister of Education announced an initiative entitled Growing Success to update, clarify, consolidate, and coordinate ministry policy for assessing, evaluating, and reporting student learning. The goal was to develop a K-12 policy document for implementation in September 2010. This work was undertaken through a process that has included a survey to board teams of educators; consultations with several stakeholder groups such as parents, students and principals; a review of policies in other jurisdictions; a pilot project for the elementary report card, and a review of the secondary report card.

The first edition of Growing Success covers Grades 1-12. A forthcoming final edition will outline a comprehensive policy for assessment, evaluation, and reporting of student achievement in Ontario schools, from Kindergarten to Grade 12. On March 2, 2010, boards received the elementary and secondary report card templates in order to work with their vendors to develop electronic versions of the report cards.
The *Growing Success* policy document aims to maintain high standards, improve student learning, and benefit students, parents, and teachers in elementary and secondary schools across the province. The document is intended to ensure that policy is clear, consistent, and well aligned across panels and across school boards and schools, and that every student in the system benefits from the same high-quality process for assessing, evaluating, and reporting student achievement.

The *Growing Success* policy document has been posted today on the ministry website site at [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/curricul/policy.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/curricul/policy.html). Print copies of the document will be distributed to school boards and schools before the end of this school year. Mandatory implementation of *Growing Success* begins in September 2010. One-day in-service sessions for board teams are being conducted in April and May 2010. Additional in-service sessions are planned for fall 2010. In addition, the ministry will be providing a variety of supports to assist teachers in the implementation of the policy. These supports will include power-point slides, videos, on-line illustrations, guidelines for writing report card comments, interactive modules, and materials to inform parents.

If you have any question about the *Growing Success* policy document, please contact the appropriate Regional Office for information. Thank you for your ongoing support of this initiative.

Kevin Costante

cc: President, OTF/FEO
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    President, ETFO
    President, OECTA
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