MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education of English-Language District School Boards
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Program Superintendents of Education
Principals of Secondary Schools
Principals of Elementary Schools
Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools
Principals of Inspected Private Schools
Principal of the Independent Learning Centre

FROM: Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister

DATE: August 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Revision to PPM 127, The Secondary School Literacy Graduation Requirement, issued October 13, 2004

The enclosed Policy and Program Memoranda No. 127, “The Secondary School Literacy Graduation Requirement and the Definition of the Terms Mature Student and Regular Day School Student” provides direction to school boards and schools concerning policies related to the secondary school literacy graduation requirement, as referenced in “Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999” (OSS), section 3.1.4.

The Minister made an announcement about the plan to proceed with changes to PPM 127 at the Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators’ (CESBA) Fall Conference on December 4, 2008. The revised PPM 127 outlines changes for secondary schools which increase flexibility and options available to students in meeting the secondary school literacy graduation requirement, while still maintaining high standards and expectations for all students. The requirements outlined in Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127 apply to the literacy graduation requirement in the 2008-09 school year and in subsequent years.

The primary change to PPM 127 allows school boards to offer mature students the option to enrol directly in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) in order to meet the graduation literacy requirement without first attempting and failing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). In addition, the revised PPM127 provides a clear definition for “mature students” and for “regular day school students”; provides the complete course coding for the
Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC); clarifies that the OSSLC cannot be challenged for credit through the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process for either regular day school or mature students but can be used as a substitution for a compulsory credit requirement; and provides details related to the adjudication process for the literacy graduation requirement.

The PPM is posted on the ministry website at www.edu.gov.on.ca. I encourage you to share this information with appropriate individuals within your boards and schools, including student success leaders. If you have any questions, please contact the ministry office in your district.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister

Enclosure

c. Chief Executive Officer, EQAO
EDU Regional Managers