MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: December 8, 2010

SUBJECT: Evaluation of the Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program (FDELKP)

As you may be aware, during the 2010 school year, the ministry will begin an evaluation of early indicators of effective practice for the FDELKP, with a particular focus on student achievement and overall child development. The results of the evaluation will help improve the delivery of the FDELKP and refine the approach to implementation.

I am pleased to announce that the Social Program Evaluation Group at Queen’s University is the successful vendor for the evaluation of the FDELKP. The evaluation will take place during the first two (2) years of implementation and will use case studies of the lived experiences of the program among educators, parents and the community. Utilizing a case study approach that includes both qualitative and quantitative measures, the evaluation framework will be based upon the Ministry’s three core priorities: increasing student achievement, closing the gap in student achievement, and building public confidence in public education.

The goals of the FDELKP Evaluation are:

1. To identify early indicators of effective practices related to the impact of the FDELKP; and,
2. To gain knowledge from the first phase of implementation to help inform program delivery moving forward through to full implementation in 2015.

The evaluation aims to obtain representation of a diverse population of children, educators and communities. School sites for this evaluation (approximately 16-18) will be selected from across the Ministry’s six regions: Barrie, London, North Bay/Sudbury, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, and Toronto, and will represent English and French, Public and Catholic schools, and subpopulations of students (i.e., Aboriginal students, students with special needs/special education needs, students whose first language is not English and students from high needs communities). The Ministry will work with school boards throughout the site selection process.
During the course of the evaluation community stakeholders will be engaged in the evaluation process at the local level and will provide a range of community/neighbourhood perspectives.

The Ministry is committed to working with you throughout the evaluation and will respect board protocols concerning school visits. We will provide you with further details as we begin to coordinate the site selection process.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and collaboration.

Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister

Copy: District School Boards – Early Learning Leaders
     Jill Vienneau, Director, Early Learning Policy and Program Branch
     Pam Musson, Director, Early Learning Implementation Branch
     Ginette Plourde, Director, French-Language Education Policy and Program Branch
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