MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Karen Gill
Director
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch

Jacqueline Herman
Director (A)
Research, Evaluation and Capacity Building Branch

DATE: February 10, 2016

SUBJECT: 2015-2016 English Language Learners Policy and Program Implementation Projects: Ensuring Equity

As a part of our ongoing commitment to support English language learners (ELL) in the province of Ontario, we are inviting your school board to participate in the 2015-2016 English Language Learners Policy and Program Implementation Projects: Ensuring Equity. This is the sixth year of this initiative and we are pleased to offer your board the opportunity to participate. This initiative will be of support to those school boards receiving Syrian newcomers.

The purpose of the projects for this year will be to:
- respond to identified provincial needs for support for educators in meeting the needs of newcomer students from Syria;
- determine to what extent the English Language Learner (ELL) policy is being implemented;
- access ministry support to implement ELL policy requirements that meet the needs of ELL so that they are able to achieve academically at the level expected of all learners in Ontario while learning the language of instruction at the same time as they are learning the curriculum and developing a range of literacy skills;
- use the Steps to English Proficiency (STEP) resource to inform responsive teacher practice that supports ELL;
- support professional learning for effective classroom teacher practice that ensures equity for ELL; and
- build leadership (i.e., school and system leaders) capacity to act effectively in their instructional leadership roles to support students with limited prior schooling.

Your board is invited to submit a project proposal request identifying the area of policy implementation it will focus on in order to meet the district’s needs to improve the learning and teaching of English language learners (see attached document – Project Overview).
Between now and March 2, 2016 Boards submit a Project Proposal Request (attached) that outlines the area of focus that directly connects to policy implementation, the project goal, the scope of the project, anticipated outcomes, the evidence to be collected and the resources requested. (Funding is to support professional learning, up to $10,000.00 of which a maximum of 10% may be spent on learning resources).

**Project applications will be reviewed as received.**
Upon approval, a Letter of Agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the project will be sent. Directors are required to sign and return the Letter of Agreement.

Upon receiving your 2015-2016 project proposal request, we will communicate any decisions and details with the person you have identified as your board contact.

Please complete the attached Project Proposal Request form (see attached document – Project Proposal Request).

We look forward to working and learning with your team to support English language learners in your school board.

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*Original Signed*

Karen Gill

*Original Signed*

Jacqueline Herman

cc:  S. Reid, Director, FSB
Rob Andrews, Director, SS/L18, Implementation, Innovation and Support
A. Bigwin, Director, AEO
Regional Managers
Field Services Curriculum Education Officers