MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Algoma District School Board
Conseil des écoles publiques de l’Est de l’Ontario
Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board
London Catholic District School Board
Niagara Catholic District School Board
Simcoe County District School Board
Toronto Catholic District School Board
Upper Grand District School Board

FROM: Sandra Bickford
Director, Student Success Policy Branch
Denys Giguère
Director, French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

DATE: February 16, 2016

SUBJECT: K-12 Education and Career/Life Planning Program,
Continuing the Professional Learning Communities in 2015-16:
Lead Boards (PLC)

This memo provides an update on the ministry funding for lead boards to facilitate the sharing of strategies and best practices for the implementation of a comprehensive Kindergarten to Grade 12 education and career/life planning program as outlined in Creating Pathways to Success (CPS).

The ministry will continue to provide 11 lead school boards (8 English lead boards and 3 French lead boards) with funding for 2015-16 to continue to build on the gains made since 2013-14 by school boards through regional professional learning communities.

Your board will receive $15,000 to continue to coordinate the regional Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to facilitate the sharing of strategies and best practices which support the further development and implementation of a comprehensive education and career/life planning program. In addition, a provincial networking session for lead board teams will be held on May 25, 2016.

1 One English-language PLC lead school board and one French-language PLC lead school board to be confirmed.
The funding is to be used to:

1. Liaise and work with internal staff and regional partners to support knowledge dissemination and sustain professional learning pertaining to comprehensive education and career/life planning programs in elementary and secondary schools;
2. Collaborate with boards in the region to develop sharable products/resources/strategies;
3. Design and host regional professional learning opportunities related to Creating Pathways to Success (e.g. symposia, conferences, workshops, webinars, etc.);
4. Attend monthly teleconferences (one hour in length) with ministry staff to facilitate further information on program supports and updates on regional activities; and
5. Participate in a Creating Pathways to Success provincial networking meeting on May 25, 2016 to share learning, strategies and resources developed.

This funding may be used for expenses associated with PLCs, for example:
- fees related to travel and accommodation (in accordance with the Government’s Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive).

This funding may not be used for:
- staffing;
- the purchase of capital equipment; and
- expenses unrelated to the implementation of CPS.

Lead boards are required to submit a final report, including a brief report on financial expenditures, to StudentSuccessPolicyBranch@ontario.ca by September 16, 2016. The report will ask lead boards to describe how the funding was used, the outcomes of professional learning sessions, the sharable product/resource/strategies developed, and the progress made in each region towards implementation of Creating Pathways to Success. A template will be provided for this report.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Nantais, Education Officer, Student Success Policy Branch at melissa.nantais@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting student success.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bickford
Director
Student Success Policy Branch

Denys Giguère
Director
French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch

c: EDU Regional Offices