MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities
Principals of Elementary Schools
Principals of First Nation Elementary Schools

FROM: Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister

DATE: January 18, 2010

SUBJECT: Release of Revised Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education Curriculum Policy Document

The Ministry is committed to providing supports for the Literacy and Numeracy and Student Success initiatives. Included in these supports are revisions to provincial curriculum policy documents to maintain a high-quality education system that ensures success for all students.

The revisions to The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Health and Physical Education are the result of work done through the curriculum review process by teams of educators which began in the fall of 2007. The review process was guided by research on new approaches specific to this discipline, benchmarking/comparing the curriculum with that of other national and international jurisdictions; and thousands of consultations with educators, students, parents and a wide range of stakeholders. These consultations provided valuable insights into the areas of the curriculum needing strengthening.

In 2008 the Ministry completed feedback consultations for the draft of proposed revisions to The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Health and Physical Education. Input from this process and other consultations was analysed and used to guide further revisions to the draft curriculum policy document. The changes that have been made provide opportunities for students to thrive in an ever-changing world by enabling them to acquire physical and health literacy and to develop the comprehension, commitment and capacity needed to lead healthy active lives and to promote the benefits of healthy active living through health and physical education at the primary, junior, and intermediate levels.
The revised curriculum policy document for Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8 is ready for release to school boards, schools and other education stakeholders. To facilitate implementation, a copy of the revised curriculum document has been posted on the Ministry website today. Print copies of the document will be distributed to school boards and schools shortly thereafter. Mandatory implementation of this document begins in September 2010. Implementation training sessions have included web-based components which were held in fall 2009; regional face-to-face two-day components are scheduled for early 2010.

As you are aware, The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Health and Physical Education, 2009(Revised) curriculum policy document is the next revised curriculum to which the standards for environmental education have been applied as recommended in the report Shaping Our Schools Shaping Our Future, June 2007. The revised health and physical education curriculum aligns with other existing and newly released government policies and documents such as Ontario’s Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy and the Foundations for a Healthy School Framework. In addition, the revised curriculum and related reporting also aligns with recommendations in the report from the Safe Schools Action Team, Shaping a Culture of Respect in Our Schools – Promoting Safe and Healthy Relationships, including the recommendation that student achievement in health education will now be reported separately from physical education.

If you have any questions about the revised curriculum policy document, please contact the appropriate Regional Office for information. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Ministry’s curriculum review process.

Original signed by

Kevin Costante

cc:  K. Rankin, Director, FSB
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