MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Principals of Elementary Schools
Principals of Secondary Schools
Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools

FROM: Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister

DATE: January 15, 2010

RE: School Food and Beverage Policy: Policy/Program Memorandum 150

The Ontario government is committed to making schools healthier places for students to learn. Schools play an important role in teaching students healthy eating habits and reinforcing those lessons through school practices. Research shows that good health is a prerequisite for good learning.

I am pleased to introduce the Ministry of Education’s School Food and Beverage Policy (Policy/Program Memorandum No. 150). All food and beverages sold in Ontario’s publicly funded schools for school purposes must meet the nutrition standards set out in the P/PM by September 1, 2011. Please also find attached answers to questions that you may have about the policy. Please share this information with all individuals involved in the sale of food or beverages in your schools, including school and student councils. For your information, the P/PM and questions and answers are also available at www.ontario.ca/healthyschools.

Near the end of the 2010-11 school year, we will be asking school boards to sign a statement of attestation to indicate that they will be in full compliance with the School Food and Beverage Policy on September 1, 2011, the date at which mandatory implementation of the policy begins.
The nutrition standards set out in the P/PM were developed in consultation with education and health stakeholders, as well as the food industry, and embody the principles of healthy eating outlined in Canada’s Food Guide.

The P/PM represents another important step in an overall plan to help develop healthier lifestyle habits in our children and youth. This has included the release of the Trans Fat Standards, (Ontario Regulation 200/08), and the introduction of daily physical activity in elementary schools.

As per the December 17, 2009 memo from Elizabeth Harding, Director of the Learning Environment Branch, to assist with implementation of the policy, the ministry will be providing training for school board teams in late-January and February 2010. Funding will also be provided to school boards to train their elementary and secondary principals. We are also developing training materials, including interactive online learning modules. More information on the training, funding and other implementation supports will be forthcoming over the next several weeks.

I would like to acknowledge the work already being done by school boards and schools in providing healthier environments for students. We want to build on those successes to ensure that all students succeed and lead healthy, productive lives.

If you have any questions, please contact your Ministry Regional Office. Thank you for your commitment to making schools healthier environments for students.

Kevin Costante

Attachments

c. Regional Managers, Ministry of Education Regional Offices