Memorandum To: Directors of Education

From: Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister

Date: January 24, 2017

Subject: Changes to Implementation of Creating Pathways to Success and Community-Connected Experiential Learning

Program/Policy Memorandum (PPM) No.159 on “Collaborative Professionalism” reflects the commitment, on the part of all education partners to work together to optimize conditions for learning, working, and leading in Ontario schools.

The PPM both defines and outlines how partners can support and achieve the implementation of professional collaboration at all levels in our education system. A central part of these efforts at the provincial level is the establishment and work of the Provincial Committee on Ministry Initiatives (Initiatives Committee). The Initiatives Committee, with representation from teacher federations, unions representing education workers, principal associations, and school board leadership, models collaboration with the aim of providing advice to the Ministry of Education on new or existing ministry initiatives/strategies.

At the last meeting of the Initiatives Committee on November 22, 2016, advice was provided to the ministry on how to move forward with respect to two initiatives: Creating Pathways to Success: An Education and Career/Life Planning Program for Ontario Schools, Policy and Program Requirements, Kindergarten to Grade 12 (CPS) and the proposed Community-Connected Experiential Learning Policy, Kindergarten to Grade 12 (CCEL). The advice focused on how these shared commitments may best be facilitated by educators in schools.
In light of the advice received we are proposing the following courses of action:

1. Effective September 2017, the following mandatory program requirements will be optional strategies, in order to allow educators to exercise their professional judgement:
   - every student from Kindergarten to Grade 6 develop and maintain an “All About Me” portfolio;
   - a process be put in place for students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 to review and share evidence of their learning with a teacher/guidance counsellor and/or parent if possible, at least twice a year; and
   - the establishment of an Education and Career/Life Planning Program Advisory Committee at the elementary school level.

2. The Highly Skilled Workforce sub-committee of the Provincial Committee on Ministry Initiatives will consider ways to integrate the two existing policy documents, *Creating Pathways to Success* and *Community-Connected Experiential Learning*, into a single policy. This work means that full implementation of the new policy will take place during the 2018-19 school year. The pilots and projects focusing on Experiential Learning Assessment and Recognition (ELAR) and/or the “stand-alone” cooperative education course in the 2017-18 school year will inform aspects of policy development, including:
   - Equity and inclusivity;
   - Expanding opportunities for creativity, problem-solving, innovation and entrepreneurship; and
   - Programs to support administration and implementation.

Thank you for supporting our work to ensure that we are creating the best conditions for learning, working and leading in Ontario schools.

Bruce Rodrigues
Deputy Minister