MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Cathy Montreuil
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

DATE: January 5, 2017

SUBJECT: 2015/16 Minister’s Student Advisory Council (MSAC) Report
(Student Recommendations)

As part of the Student Success Strategy, Student Voice was designed to learn directly from students what would help them strengthen their engagement or re-engagement in their learning. The purpose of this dialogue includes strengthening communication between students and all members of the education community.

The Minister’s Student Advisory Council (MSAC) is one of the Student Voice programs. MSAC is a group of 60 students with a diverse and unique experience from across the province, appointed by the Minister through an application and review process. The council meets twice per year to provide advice and comments on Ministry policies and programs. Members are often invited to take part in Ministry events where they share their experiences, ideas and perceptions.

MSAC members are selected to represent Ontario’s cultural, social, economic and geographic diversity. Members are provided the opportunity to speak up and take action on topics and issues that will strengthen student engagement across the province.

As part of their appointment, MSAC members develop and write a report to the Minister of Education. The 2015/16 MSAC Report [Attachment A] was developed and written by MSAC members, independent of ministry staff. The report includes topics and recommendations most important to them.

The recommendations fell into two broad categories. Those that would most appropriately be addressed through a ministry response, and those that would be most appropriately addressed locally, at a school or board level. Many of the recommendations outlined in the report would be of interest to school boards and schools. We have attached the MSAC Report for your review and consideration. We also suggest that if your board had a 2015/16 MSAC student, that you and perhaps the board of trustee(s) review the MSAC report with them.
The ministry will continue to reflect upon the students’ recommendations and consider how their voice can inform ministry programs, policies and initiatives. We invite schools and boards to do the same.

Please feel free to review and share the 2015/16 MSAC Report for consideration of the student recommendations in your local school boards, schools and school communities.

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Keyes, Director (A), Student Achievement Division at (416) 326-9369 or Patrick.Keyes@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Cathy Montreuil
Assistant Deputy Minister

C: Student Success Leaders
   Patrick Keyes, Director (A), SAD
   Lillian Patry, Director (A), FLEPPB
   Kate Cowan, Manager, SAD
   René Côté, Manager (A), FLEPPB
   Belinda Ellsworth, Senior Policy Advisor (A), SAD
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Attachment