MEMORANDUM TO:  
Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Director of Provincial Schools

FROM:  
Elizabeth Harding  
Director  
Learning Environment Branch

Ruth Flynn  
Director  
Inclusive Education Branch

DATE:  
March 1, 2010

RE:  
Revised Sample School Climate Surveys

Further to the memo you received from Deputy Minister Kevin Costante on October 19, 2009, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the revised Sample School Climate Surveys are now available in a variety of formats to allow more flexibility in their use. These sample surveys now include a section relating to equity and inclusive education and revised questions about incidents of sexual, gender-based bullying and homophobia while continuing to ask about other forms of bullying.

As you know, the Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy calls for each school to create and support a positive school climate that fosters and promotes equity, inclusive education, and diversity. The equity section of the survey will help schools to assess how well all members of the school community feel safe, welcomed, and accepted.

Under the revised Policy/Program Memorandum 145, which comes into effect February 1, 2010 boards are required to:

- conduct anonymous school climate surveys of their students every two years. Schools should also survey school staff and parents to assess their perception of safety in the school in order to inform prevention and intervention planning;
- include questions on bullying/harassment related to homophobia, gender-based violence, and sexual harassment in their surveys; and
require their schools to share climate survey results with their safe schools teams and to build strategies into their school improvement plans to improve the school climate regarding issues identified through their climate surveys.

The survey is available to be completed online, or schools may download them in ‘read only’ format or in Word which will enable schools/boards to add or revise questions to make them relevant to local circumstances. Surveys in ‘read only’ and Word can be found at:  http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/climate.html

The new online version of the survey is linked to a calculation and assessment tool that will allow principals to print reports specific to their school’s results. To access the online survey and calculation tool, please follow the attached instructions.

We hope you find this resource helpful. Should you have technical questions or require assistance in accessing the online survey, please contact the Safe Schools Unit at 416-325-2558.

Thank you

Original Signed by  
___________________________  
Elizabeth Harding  
Director

Original Signed by  
___________________________  
Ruth Flynn  
Director

c: Ministry of Education Regional Office Managers

Attachment