MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
District School Boards
Secretaries and Treasurers
School Authorities

FROM: Elizabeth Harding
Director
Learning Environment Branch

DATE: March 12, 2010

SUBJECT: Survey of School Boards' Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion Programs

Since the Education Act as amended by the Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety), 2007, came into effect on February 1, 2008, the Ministry has been providing school boards with funds to:

- implement programs and supports for all expelled students and students serving long-term suspensions; and
- hire professionals and para-professionals to promote positive student behaviour through prevention, early intervention and progressive discipline.

The Ministry has begun a review of the programs for expelled students and students serving long-term suspensions. The review will help the Ministry and Boards:

1. Identify successful practices that can be shared among boards and programs;
2. Identify strategies to overcome challenges that can be shared among boards and programs;
3. Facilitate the sharing among boards of promising practices and strategies to overcome challenges;
4. Recognize and celebrate successful programs; and
5. Identify and share stories of student/school transformation.

This is a multi-part review including:

- a survey of all school boards;
- regional meetings with school boards;
- site visits to selected boards/programs; and
- analysis of suspension/expulsion data from OnSIS.
To assist the Ministry and Boards with this review, we are asking for your assistance by completing a detailed survey on the design and implementation of your board’s long-term suspension and expulsion programs. We request that the survey be completed either by the Principal of the Program or the Supervisory Officer responsible for the Program.

The survey can be completed online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SurveyofProgramsforSuspendedandExpelledStudents.

Surveys should be completed by April 6, 2010.

We estimate that completing the survey will take about 60-90 minutes in total and does not need to be completed in one sitting.

We would like to thank the boards that worked with us to pilot the survey for their valuable input.

If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Cleland, Learning Environment Branch, at patricia.cleland@ontario.ca or (416) 325-2697.

Original signed by

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Elizabeth Harding
Director