MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Director of the Provincial Schools Branch
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Leger

FROM: Mary Jean Gallagher
Chief Student Achievement Officer of Ontario
Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: May 12, 2009

SUBJECT: Student Achievement Symposium Follow-up

This is the time of the year, I know, when the pace of work involved for you as educational leaders becomes even more busy, celebrating the successes of the year to date, moving into all those end of year activities, and at the same time completing the many things which are critical to a successful launch of the 2009/10 school year. One of these activities is completing the Board Improvement Plan. And so, I am writing to you about our new K-12 Board Improvement Plan (BIP) and School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) documents.

Last week we had the opportunity to introduce these to your Student Success Leader and School Effectiveness Lead at our first Student Achievement Division Symposium. It is a great time to be part of education in Ontario, and as we shared last Tuesday and Wednesday, we have much to celebrate and yet a lot more to do. We have an opportunity to work together and further our progress on improving the futures of all Ontario students. As the Deputy Minister reminded your leaders last Tuesday, we have two great initiatives – Literacy and Numeracy, and Student Success. Merging them into one division further strengthens our student achievement focus.

In response to input from consultations with educators from across the province we are pleased to share our final 2008/09 draft of the BIP, SEF and BIP planning calendar. These are attached for your information, sharing and planning. Each of these documents are working documents and further consultations will occur in early 2010. We look forward to your input and assistance in ensuring these documents will become effective tools to support further improvements in student achievement.
Our priority this year is that all boards develop a K-12 BIP. The components as identified in the attached plan must be included in your plan but boards have flexibility in the design of their plan. Smart Goals should be identified for each of the four pillars: Literacy, Numeracy, Pathways, and Community, Culture and Caring. Some of these goals should be K – 12. Preliminary plans for 2009-10 are due by June 30 2009 and sent to: StudentAchievementDivision@ontario.ca. As noted on the planning calendar, finalized plans are due October 31, 2009.

The attached K-12 SEF encompasses the existing framework and incorporates other educational research. All boards have been using the SEF in their elementary schools for self-assessment and the district review process. Beginning September 2009 the intent is that elementary schools may continue to use the current SEF as a tool for self-assessment and district reviews. Secondary schools that are using the current SEF may continue to do so. Where the SEF has not been previously introduced in secondary schools, we would ask that boards introduce the new K-12 SEF. Our goal is that all boards and all their schools will become familiar with the new K-12 SEF over the course of the next school year. The SEF documents we are sending to you are draft documents, and they obviously do not have the level of specificity of past SEF documents. We believe they do provide an important lens through which schools in both panels may view their plans and progress toward improved outcomes for our students. We would ask that schools become familiar with these documents, and that some schools (both elementary and secondary) in your jurisdiction use them as a tool for their self reviews. We would like those same schools then to provide feedback, assisting us as we delineate the indicators and evidence (the “look-fors”) which would be included in a more detailed document which will serve us all well in the years to come. An early 2010 consultation will include your progress in using the new K-12 SEF, its components and indicators. These documents are not a complete substitution for your current processes and documents. We instead ask that you, as you have in the past, integrate these into your board approaches.

Thank you and your board leaders for your leadership and support in the implementation of the K-12 Board Improvement Plan and the School Effectiveness Framework. All of us in the Student Achievement Division are prepared to assist you as we work together on behalf of improved student achievement.

Sincerely,

Mary Jean Gallagher

cc: EDU Deputy Minister
    EDU Assistant Deputy Ministers
    EDU Chief Research Officer
    EDU Regional Managers
    LNS Team Leaders