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

FROM: Ben Levin
Deputy Minister

DATE: May 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Teacher Qualifications for Technological Education and Computer Studies

As a result of changes in the revised curricula for Technological Education, Grades 9 to 12 and Computer Studies, Grades 10 to 12, there is a need to clarify the qualification requirements for teachers to teach specific subjects within the revised curricula.

The qualifications required to teach technological education and computer studies subjects in Ontario schools are set out in O. Regulation 298 under the Education Act. O. Regulation 298 distinguishes between qualifications for teachers of technological education and teachers of general studies (academic subjects). The regulation requires that all technological education subjects are taught by teachers who hold a Certificate of Qualification in good standing issued by the Ontario College of Teachers, indicating qualifications in technological education and that all general studies subjects are taught by teachers with qualifications in general studies.

Teachers with technological education qualifications may teach other technological education subjects in Grades 9 and 10 by mutual agreement of the teacher, the school principal, and with the approval of the appropriate supervisory officer. A major consideration must always be the safety and welfare of students and provision of the best possible program when assigning teachers by mutual agreement.

Technological education subjects in Grades 11 and 12 must be taught by technological education teachers who hold qualifications in the specific technological education subject, for example, transportation technology. Technological education teachers who do not hold technological education subject qualifications in Grades 11 and 12 may be assigned to teach the subject if the school board applies to the College, and is granted, a Temporary Letter of Approval.
Teachers with general studies qualifications may teach other general studies subjects in all grades by mutual agreement of the general studies teacher, the school principal, and with the approval of the appropriate supervisory officer. A major consideration must always be the safety and welfare of students and provision of the best possible program when assigning teachers by mutual agreement. Exceptions to this general rule include a number of subjects, such as special education, that are specifically referenced in the regulation.

General studies teachers may be assigned to teach technological education subjects and technological education teachers may be assigned to teach general studies subjects if the school board applies to the College, and is granted, a Temporary Letter of Approval.

As a result of the revisions to the curriculum for Technological Education, Grades 9 and 10 (1999) and Technological Education, Grades 11 and 12 (2000) a number of changes have occurred that impact on teacher qualifications:

- the revisions to the Technological Education curriculum include two new subject disciplines, Green Industries and Computer Technology, for which there are currently no qualification courses available at faculties of education, and

- the revised Computer Studies courses have been removed from the Technological Education curriculum document and are now contained in a separate document, Computer Studies, Grades 10 to 12.

During the 2009-2010 school year teachers who have been successfully teaching locally developed courses related to the new Green Industries subjects may continue to teach these during the term of approval for each of these courses. In the case of a locally developed course related to the new Green Industries subjects whose approval period expires in June 2009, the approval period will be extended for one year pending review during the 2009-2010 school year.

During the 2009-2010 school year teachers assigned to teach the new Green Industries courses and the new Computer Technology courses in Grades 9 and 10 who cannot teach them by mutual agreement will be able to do so provided that the school board applies for, and is granted, a Temporary Letter of Approval for each of these teachers. All teachers assigned to teach the new Green Industries courses and the new Computer Technology courses in Grades 11 and 12 will require a Temporary Letter of Approval. The Ministry will work with the Ontario College of Teachers to facilitate the approval process for the 2009-2010 school year.

This will allow schools and boards to proceed with staffing for the coming school year and will facilitate offering and staffing these new courses, particularly in French-language schools, small schools and remote communities. It will also provide time for the Ontario College of Teachers to work with the faculties of education and other teacher education providers on the development of qualification courses in the new technological education subjects.

Ben Levin

Cc: Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch
Regional Managers