MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Kirsten Parker
Director

DATE: November 27, 2007

SUBJECT: Principals’ Regional Sessions

In a memo on November 7th, Directors were informed of the Ministry of Education’s intent to offer a professional learning opportunity for school administrators to increase their knowledge of the Student Success Initiative. Although our intent was to hold some of the events in December after a great deal of feedback from principals and student success leaders, it has been decided to move them into January and February of 2008. The December dates have therefore been rescheduled.

The Ministry of Education and, the Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario (CPCO), the Ontario Principals’ Council (OPC) and l’Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO) remain committed to providing professional learning opportunities during the 2007-08 school year that will assist school administrators in continuing to provide a high calibre of leadership and support for all students and staff.

Therefore, at the sessions beginning in January, administrators will be updated on the current approaches and programs in Student Success/Learning to 18, will receive resources and will have an opportunity to dialogue with their colleagues from other boards regarding successful strategies and effective practices. These sessions will confirm the integral role and responsibility of the principals as school leaders of change and instruction and affirm successful Student Success implementation strategies and successes that are occurring throughout the province. Please review the attached agenda for each occasion. It is hoped that through you principals will be encouraged to attend.

Each board is invited to send a board team consisting of one principal or vice principal from each 9-12, 7-12 or 7-9 school; two elementary principals; the student success leader and a superintendent of education with responsibilities for families of schools or secondary schools. Boards with more than 100 elementary schools are invited to send an additional elementary principal; with more than 125 elementary schools an additional two elementary principals, and with more than 150 elementary schools, boards are invited to send up to five elementary principals and three superintendents of education. The normal board authorization procedures should be followed when boards authorize individuals to attend the events.
Please distribute this memo to the appropriate superintendents, your student success leaders and your school administrators. The associations will be sending a copy through their communications network later today.

The second attachment to this memo is the location and date for each session. (Please note that the French Language Education Policy and Programs Branch is corresponding with Directors of French-language boards on these matters). Following board authorization individuals can register individually through their associations or if a board prefers, the student success leader can send in the names and email addresses of all the members of the Board team to the appropriate association.

We do apologize for any inconvenience caused by the change in dates but believe that more principals will benefit from the changes than will be inconvenienced. Should any principal be unable to attend a workshop on his/her designated date please have him/her contact the appropriate association to see if there is room at another session.

We recognize that the leadership, vision, compassion and creativity of your school leaders are critical to implementing Student Success initiatives in every school throughout the province. We anticipate that the opportunity to provide professional learning opportunities on Student Success will enhance the work that they do every day in your schools.

You, your student success leader and board team, your principals, vice principals and their school teams are making a difference for so many of our students. Thank you. We look forward to continuing our work with you to ensure that we reach every student.

Yours truly,

Kirsten Parker

and on behalf of:
Lisa Vincent, President OPC
Dan Tighe, President CPCO
Neil Parent, President ADFO

c: Ginette Plourde, Director
    Grant Clarke, Director
    Kit Rankin, Director
    Regional Managers
    Student Success Leaders