MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Pauline McNaughton, Director (A)
      Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch

Denys Giguère, Director
      French Language Education Policy and Program Branch

DATE: November 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Pilots to improve educational outcomes for students in care of
         Children’s Aid Societies

This memo is an invitation to boards to submit applications for funding to run pilot programs to
improve educational outcomes and well-being of children and youth in the care of or receiving
services from Children’s Aid Societies (CASs).

The educational outcomes of children and youth in care are significantly lower than those of the
general population and the Ministry of Education is committed to providing targeted,
personalized supports to meet the particular learning needs of these students. The ministry is
seeking programs that show positive outcomes for this vulnerable group of students that could be
used for broader adoption across the province.

We are interested in the expansion to include:

- Pilots for youth in care that will run for semester 2, February-June 2015 with the
  possibility of extending the programming for the 2015-16 school year; and
- Summer programming for 2015 for secondary and/or elementary students.

Please note that if you are already implementing a pilot, you may apply again for your model in
another location or propose a different model.

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Pilots for youth in care, including summer programming, should include expanded learning opportunities including experiential, cross-curricular and/or contextualized learning in a student-centered, caring environment. The pilots should support improved outcomes for these youth and encompass:

- increased engagement through targeted learning opportunities and creative, relevant programming;
- improved educational outcomes related to accumulation of credits, attendance, reduced disciplinary actions and enhanced pathways planning for secondary students;
- access to supports and interventions including connections to a “caring adult”;
- tracking, monitoring and reporting on educational progress;
- opportunities for the education sector and CASs to work together to identify students in care and share relevant information; and
- collaboration with community partners to support the academic success and well-being of students in the pilot.

Pilots for summer programming for elementary students should support:

- improved literacy and numeracy outcomes;
- increased engagement through targeted learning opportunities and creative, relevant programming;
- collaboration with community partners to support the academic success and well-being of students in the pilot; and
- opportunities for the education sector and CASs to work together to identify students in care and share relevant information.

Boards and school authorities are invited to submit proposal(s) using the attached template to apply for funding to a maximum of $50,000 per semester or summer pilot to develop and implement new programming for children and youth in care of or receiving services from a CAS (minimum 10 students per pilot). Boards are encouraged to propose pilots that reflect the local community and to partner with neighbouring and coterminous boards. Details of a teleconference in early December to address boards’ questions regarding proposals will be sent to each board’s Student Success Leader.

Proposals are due on or before **December 17, 2014**. Communication to successful boards will take place by January 5, 2015 followed by contract agreements and transfer payments.

Successful boards will be required to report quantitative and qualitative data that measures student progress at the end of each semester or summer program. See the attached proposal template for more information. If you have questions, please contact Audrey Cartile, audrey.cartile@ontario.ca (416) 326-0552.
We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you to explore strategies to improve the achievement of students in care,

Originally signed by

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Pauline McNaughton                                      Denys Giguère

Attachment: Proposal template