MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretaries of School Authorities
Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools

FROM: Grant Clarke
Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning and Curriculum Division
Marg Connor
Assistant Deputy Minister (Acting), Leadership and Learning Environment Division
Mary Jean Gallagher
Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division
Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years Division
Janine Griffore
Assistant Deputy Minister, French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division

DATE: November 27, 2014

RE: Foundations for a Healthy School

We are very pleased to make you aware that the recently updated *Foundations for a Healthy School* resource is now available for download from Ontario.ca/healthyschools. Hard copies of the resource for use in your offices, and a one-page, visual overview of the resource for distribution to your schools will follow.

The Ministry of Education (EDU) first released the *Foundations for a Healthy School* in 2006, based on research and stakeholder input, to establish a common understanding of the components that together contribute to a healthy school. It has been widely used in the education and public health sectors and by other community partners as a tool to support child and student well-being through the planning and delivery of a comprehensive approach to healthy schools policies, programs and initiatives.

The *Foundations for a Healthy School* resource has now been significantly updated and expanded to help schools and school boards, in partnership with parents and the community, create a learning environment that promotes well-being – one of four core goals for the system as outlined in *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario* (available at Ontario.ca/EDUvision).

The revised *Foundations for a Healthy School* resource reflects feedback received from our partners in the education sector, children and youth services, the public health sector, and beyond, including from our key provincial ministry partners. We want to acknowledge the assistance and thank all of you who provided input throughout the revision process.

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In an effort to support the integration of healthy schools approaches into school and school board improvement planning, the Foundations for a Healthy School resource now includes five interconnected areas that better align with components of the K-12 School Effectiveness Framework: Curriculum, Teaching and Learning; School and Classroom Leadership; Student Engagement; Social and Physical Environments; and, Home, School and Community Partnerships (the K-12 School Effectiveness Framework is available at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/framework.html). Taken together, work in these five areas can help to create and sustain healthy schools policies, programs and initiatives.

The Foundations for a Healthy School also provides sample strategies and activities that can be used at the school level, in the classroom, or among students in order to:

- take an Integrated Approach (e.g., address multiple health-related topics holistically, or integrate health-related topics into other aspects of school life);
- address one of six specific, curriculum-linked health-related topics (Physical Activity; Healthy Eating; Personal Safety and Injury Prevention; Growth and Development; Mental Health and Substance Use, Addictions and Related Behaviours); and,
- contribute to a Positive School Climate, which is also key to a healthy school.

The updated resource provides many ideas and starting points for teams to discuss and consider as they continue their work to promote child and student well-being within their school community. We strongly encourage you to download the resource, share the link with your networks, and share with us any ideas for supplementary materials that would support use of the Foundations for a Healthy School and a comprehensive and integrated approach to healthy schools policies, programs and initiatives (e.g., planning templates; resources for students).

If you have any questions about the resource, please contact Steve Soroko, A/Manager of the Healthy Schools Unit, at steve.soroko@ontario.ca or 416-314-4587.

Thank you,

Original Signed By __________________________
Grant Clarke

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Marg Connor

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Mary Jean Gallagher

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Jim Grieve

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Janine Griffore

c. Ministry of Education Directors
Regional Office Leads, Ministry of Education Regional Offices