We are pleased to extend an invitation to guidance counsellors, Student Success Leaders and board character development leads to attend a regional session focused on the role of guidance counsellors in Character Development, Student Success and Learning to 18 Initiatives. These sessions are being presented collaboratively by three departments of the Ministry of Education - the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat; the Strategic Planning and Elementary/Secondary Programs Division; and the French Language Education Educational Operations Division; in partnership with the Ontario School Guidance Counsellors’ Association. The sessions will provide:

- an overview of the expectations of the key Ministry of Education’s 2007-08 initiatives
- reinforcement of the important role that guidance counsellors play in supporting these initiatives
- an opportunity for networking and planning collaboratively with colleagues.

Over the past few years, a series of initiatives designed to enhance academic achievement for all students in Ontario’s publicly-funded elementary and secondary schools has been introduced. The Character Development Initiative focuses on a complementary and equally important aspect of student success - developing the whole student as an individual, as a citizen and as an active member of the school and broader community. All publicly-funded schools in Ontario, Kindergarten to Grade 12, will implement character development initiatives during the 2007-08 school year.

The purpose of the day is to affirm the work of guidance counsellors, to inform and support them...
in the implementation and extension of character development initiatives and to share information that will provide all students with greater opportunities in their education and career development selections.

A board team comprised of one guidance counsellor per secondary school (preferably department head/lead), and three elementary guidance counsellors per board, if applicable; the program coordinator with responsibility for guidance; the board’s character development lead; the Student Success Leader; and the Program Superintendent with responsibilities for guidance (optional). The Ministry will cover all expenses including release time coverage (if necessary), travel and accommodation if applicable.

Between November 12th and 27th, six regional sessions will be held. The details are outlined in the appendices. Appendix A outlines the agenda and specific dates and locations; Appendix B is the registration form. Your Student Success Leader will be coordinating the registration process for your Board.

Please ensure that the registration form is returned by fax or email to Kim England, Ministry of Education, Student Success/Learning to 18: (kim.england@ontario.ca), fax number: 416-327-6749 by November 5, 2007.

We know that the guidance counsellors have always played a key role in Character Development and Student Success. These sessions are being planned to build upon this commitment to reach every student by working with school and board teams.

Avis Glaze                       George Zegarac                       Dominic Giroux

Encl.

c: Student Success Leaders

Ginette Plourde, Director, FLEPB
Kit Rankin, Director, FSB
Regional Managers