October 8, 2014

Dear Chairs,

I am writing about the Ministry of Education’s plan to continue with the Early Development Instrument (EDI). We know that healthy child development in the early years puts children on a path to lifelong success. The EDI provides critical information about how Ontario’s youngest students are developing — and this helps us plan for their future academic success.

The EDI determines children’s readiness to learn by measuring their developmental health and well-being as they enter school. The EDI measures five key areas:

- physical health and well-being;
- social competence;
- emotional maturity;
- language and cognitive development; and
- communication skills and general knowledge.

EDI results are used nationally and internationally to make decisions that support healthy child development. Over the past decade in Ontario, the EDI has been used to measure children’s readiness for Grade 1. All school boards have previously participated in EDI data collection.

Going forward, EDI data will be collected similarly to what has been done in the past. The Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University will work with the Ministry of Education to build EDI capacity and share knowledge. And given the importance of integrating the EDI within the education system, Ontario’s publicly funded school boards will administer the EDI beginning with the 2014-15 school year.

The success of the EDI is rooted in a deep commitment by many organizations involved in collecting and analyzing this data. We are committed to continuing this valuable and collaborative work, to promote our shared goals of healthy child development and increased student achievement and well-being.
Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our province’s students, especially our youngest learners beginning their journey through school. I look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Liz Sandals
Minister

c. Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l’Ontario

Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques

Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association

Ontario Public School Boards’ Association