

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Ben Levin
Deputy Minister

DATE: June 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Credit Recovery

On behalf of the Minister and the Student Success Commission, I am pleased to provide you with this first Memo related to the recommendations of the Commission as it explores, advises and endorses the government's implementation of student success initiatives.

As you know, the Student Success Commission has been meeting since the end of March. It has a dual mandate: to provide advice to the Minister with respect to the implementation implications of current and proposed Student Success Initiatives and to endorse implementation models that will promote the sector's commitment to every student.

The members of the Commission have worked diligently and in good faith. This unique venture that enlists the expertise, insights and political sensitivities of all levels of district school board management and the four teacher federations, creates for all of us in public education a genuine, shared ownership that will provide our students with a greater systemic approach to learning.

The Commission, in consultation with the Ministry, identified Credit Recovery as its first area of focus because consistency in existing programs is desirable and because it is an essential option for students who fail one credit or more in Grade 9 and 10. While there are many existing good practices in the sector, each initiative requires continued support and direction.

It is the role of the Commission to recommend to the Minister ways to build on and expand the current, effective practices and to propose innovative approaches in order to ensure that regardless of the school or Board, each student receives a quality Credit Recovery experience. This requires balancing centralized direction with local autonomy and also considering a Board's human resource capacity within the parameters of collective agreements.

All school boards will need to review their current Credit Recovery programs to ensure alignment with the direction stated in this memo. It is understood that staffing allocations and timetabling for next year are well under way. The timelines for the Guiding Principles and many of the process pieces take this into consideration.

The Commission has endorsed Guiding Principles intended to provide a consistent framework for all Credit Recovery programs in the province. Rather than develop specific models of Credit Recovery program delivery, the Commission focused on characteristics of programs that best serve students. In addition to the Guiding Principles, these include the delineation of a Credit Recovery Team, a process for Credit recovery Eligibility, a process for the transition from an initial credit attempt to a recovered credit and a general position on Credit Recovery programs.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Sue Durst, Acting Director, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch at 416-325-2576 or email sue.durst@edu.gov.on.ca

As always, my thanks for your ongoing efforts to support success for all students.

Original signed by

Ben Levin
Deputy Minister

Attachment

- c. Student Success Leaders
General Secretaries
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)