



Mail Correspondence to:  
Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB  
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October 21, 2015

Mr. George Zegarac  
Deputy Minister of Education  
Mowat Block, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

**Re: The release of the 2014/15 Early Development Instrument (EDI) Results**

Dear Mr. Zegarac,

The Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network has been made aware of the possibility that the Ministry of Education may be releasing the 2014/2015 EDI data without a 6-digit postal code field as the geographic location for each child. We rely on 6-digit postal codes to aggregate our EDI results into our traditionally defined EDI neighbourhoods. Care is taken by our Data Analysis Coordinators to suppress information for any neighbourhood with less than 10 valid records, thus maintaining the confidentiality of the data. Postal codes are used to aggregate the data and nothing else, data is never released at an individual level.

We rely on neighbourhood level EDI data to confirm challenges or issues in the child population in a certain area; change how we deliver programs, allocate resources, and decide what programs we offer; validate what we already know; encourage inquiry and further exploration of issues; question what we assume is working or not working; provide reliable information for accountability issues; and guide our continuous improvement.

Without aggregating data into our traditional EDI neighbourhoods, it will be impossible to identify gaps and monitor progress on initiatives and programs that have been implemented with the goal of reducing vulnerability in certain neighbourhoods.

Data suppression may result in little to no new EDI data in rural communities, our ability to service plan for children and families in an equitable manner will be substantially compromised, the reporting and analysis of EDI results would be negatively impacted and our ability to make comparisons to previous years would be impossible.

We encourage you to consider the local impact of your decisions regarding the geographic level of the EDI data results. If we can be of any assistance in the decision making process, please feel free to contact Inga Kaletka, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DAC ([ikaletka@spcsudbury.ca](mailto:ikaletka@spcsudbury.ca)).

Sincerely,

**Lori Clark**  
Co-Chair  
Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network

**Sue Caverson**  
Co-Chair  
Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network

CC. Mr. Tadesse Haile, Director—Education Statistics and Analysis Branch  
Ms. Nancy Matthews, Assistant Deputy Minister—Early Years Branch  
Ms. Julia Danos, Director (Acting)—Early Years Implementation Branch  
Ms. Laurie McNelles, Manager—Outcomes and Assessment Unit  
Ms Lina Davidson, Child Care Advisor (Sudbury/North Bay)—Child Care Unit

Integrated services and supports for children and families in the Manitoulin/Sudbury Districts are collectively planned in response to local needs.

They are provided in a cohesive manner, are accessible to families and reflective of language and unique cultures.

The vision of the Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network