

**Ministry of Education**

Deputy Minister

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

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**Memorandum To:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities  
Early Years Partners

**From:** Bruce Rodrigues  
Deputy Minister

**Date:** November 3, 2016

**Subject:** Promoting Well-Being in Ontario's Education System:  
Engagement Paper

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I am pleased to provide you with *Well-Being in Our Schools, Strength in Our Society: Engagement Paper*. With the release of this paper we are continuing the conversation on our collective goal of Promoting Well-Being.

Beginning with this engagement paper, we hope to hear a range of perspectives on how to build on the successful work that we know happens every day in our schools to promote and support the well-being of Ontario's students.

The paper presents discussion questions around three related themes:

- 1. Understanding Well-Being:** What it means, and the factors that contribute to it.
- 2. Promoting and Supporting Student Well-Being:** The conditions that promote well-being and that support the healthy development of *all* students in our schools.
- 3. Knowing our Impact:** What we will look for to determine if we've been successful in promoting and supporting student well-being.

We are interested in hearing the views from as many people as possible on these discussion questions and have developed a variety of methods for people to provide input. In addition to the regional engagement sessions that have been communicated to you by our Regional Office managers, we have also developed an **Engagement Kit** to support independent engagement sessions and an online **Engagement Portal** for individuals or groups who wish to provide feedback directly. Further details about these engagement opportunities are available on the Ministry of Education's website.

I would appreciate your assistance in helping the ministry get the word out about the engagement opportunities that are available. Please share the engagement paper within your community, including your education partners. We also encourage you to consider hosting engagement sessions of your own using the Engagement Kit. The kit has been designed to engage a broad range of partners, including parent and/or community groups, students, or partner organizations. We are relying on your strong partnerships to help engage diverse perspectives on the topic of student well-being.

The province is consulting with a diverse range of partners in education, health care, youth justice, social services, business, arts and culture and the non-profit sector, as well as francophone partners and communities to incorporate their unique identities, cultural backgrounds and perspectives. The ministry is also working with Indigenous partners to co-develop supports and indicators of well-being for Indigenous students that can help inform the larger well-being strategy for all students.

By drawing on the knowledge of those who have done important work over many years to foster well-being among our students, our goal is to deepen our understanding of the connection between student well-being and academic achievement, including the positive role that a focus on well-being can play in improving equity of opportunity and promoting success for all students.

Please contact your ministry regional office if you have any questions.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Ontario's students. I look forward to working with you to achieve our shared vision for education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Rodrigues". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Bruce Rodrigues  
Deputy Minister