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MEMORANDUM TO:

Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

FROM:

Aryeh Gitterman
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Instruction and Leadership Development Division
Ministry of Education

Trinela Cane
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Policy Development and Program Design Division
Ministry of Children and Youth Services

DATE:

December 18, 2006

SUBJECT:

Model Projects to Promote Positive Student Behaviour

The Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services are writing to invite you to submit proposals for the 2006-07 school year to expand and/or enhance existing programs and practices that promote positive student behaviour, and provide a safe environment for learning so that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As you are aware, the Safe Schools Action Team (SSAT) provided advice to the government on school safety issues in its report, *Safe Schools Policy and Practice: An Agenda for Action* in June of this year. The SSAT report identified the need for the Ministry of Education to work collaboratively with other Ministries to focus on both prevention and intervention programs for students. It states that schools should use prevention and early intervention strategies that are inclusive, actively involving students, parents, the school and community, support existing partnerships and establish new partnerships. Through the Model Projects, the government is providing an opportunity to school boards and school authorities in the 2006-07 school year to expand and/or enhance current programs and practices that address these recommendations.

The Model Projects initiative is a first step in obtaining information on effective practices that promote positive student behaviour and build and sustain a safe learning environment for all students.

Regional working sessions will be held across the province in January 2007 for interested school boards/school authorities and any of their community partners. These sessions will help school boards/school authorities prepare quality proposals for Model Projects in 2006-07. School board/school authorities are encouraged to invite their community partners to these sessions. Staff from the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services will be available to facilitate the

the discussions. The sessions are intended to be collaborative opportunities for school boards/school authorities to share current practices, discuss their proposed plans to enhance/expand their current programs, resolve issues, and build on existing partnerships and linkages. It would be helpful if interested school boards/school authorities send representatives to these working sessions who are knowledgeable about the promotion of positive student behaviour and your Student Success initiatives.

The Model Projects Application Forms will be shared with participants at these sessions and boards/school authorities will be invited to develop proposals and submit projects that deliver on one or a combination of the following selection criteria:

- Provide prevention programs and/or practices for all students that address behaviour that hinders students from achieving success.
- Provide early intervention programs and/or practices for students who are at-risk of suspension and/or expulsion.
- Provide program support and re-integration strategies for suspended/limited expelled students.
- Build partnerships and linkages with community agencies and/or treatment providers (e.g. mental health services, behaviour management, recreational and community programs and individual counselling).
- Improve decision making processes so that students' needs are recognized early on and in a timely manner for school board and community based services.
- Engage students and parents in encouraging and supporting positive school behaviour.

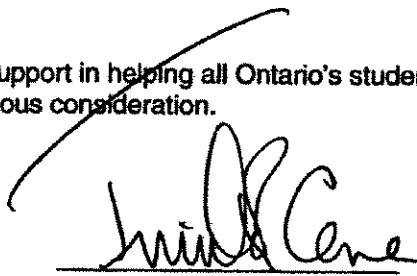
You will be provided with detailed information on the regional working sessions by December 22, 2006. In the interim, Ministry of Education's Regional Offices are available to answer any questions (see contact list attached to the Proposal Guide).

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services will review proposals and select projects for funding based on the selection criteria as set out in the attached Proposal Guide. Each Model Project selected for funding by the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services will be part of an evaluation to be conducted by an external independent evaluator to inform on effective practices.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support in helping all Ontario's students succeed. We trust you will give the enclosed information serious consideration.



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Trinela Cane
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Enclosures (1)

MODEL PROJECTS TO PROMOTE POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Model Projects to Promote Positive Student Behaviour

Proposal Guide

Purpose

The purpose of the Model Projects is to identify effective programs and/or practices that promote positive student behaviour, and provide a safe environment for learning, so all students have the opportunity to reach their full academic and social potential.

Each Model Project selected for funding by the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services will be part of an evaluation to be conducted by an external independent evaluator to inform on effective practices.

Background

The Model Projects initiative is consistent with key recommendations made by the Safe School Action Team in its report, *Safe Schools Policy and Practice: An Agenda for Action*, June 2006. Specifically, the report identified the need for the Ministry of Education to work collaboratively with other Ministries to focus on both prevention and early intervention strategies that are inclusive, actively involve students, parents, the school and community; and support existing partnerships and establish new partnerships.

School boards/school authorities are invited to submit proposals on behalf of the board (i.e. for a board-wide program(s)/practice(s)), a family of schools or an individual school. Joint proposals between school boards/school authorities are to be sent on one form with the appropriate approvals for each. Only one proposal per school board/school authority will be considered.

Regional Working Sessions

Regional working sessions will be held across the province in January 2007 for interested school boards/school authorities and any of their community partners. These sessions will help school boards/school authorities prepare quality proposals for Model Projects in 2006-07. School board/school authorities are encouraged to invite their community partners to these sessions.

Staff from the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services will be available to facilitate the discussions. The sessions are intended to be collaborative opportunities for school boards/school authorities to share current practices, discuss their proposed plans to enhance/expand their current programs, resolve issues, and build on existing partnerships and linkages. It would be helpful if interested school boards/school authorities send representatives to these working sessions who are knowledgeable about the promotion of positive student behaviour and your student success initiatives. The Model Projects Application Form will also be shared with participants at these sessions.

You will be provided with detailed information on the regional working sessions by December 22, 2006.

MODEL PROJECTS TO PROMOTE POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Selection Criteria

Following these regional working sessions, school boards/school authorities will be invited to prepare and submit their proposals for projects that deliver on one or a combination of the following selection criteria:

1. Provide prevention programs and/or practices for all students that address behaviour that hinders students from achieving success.
2. Provide early intervention programs and/or practices for students who are at-risk of suspension and/or expulsion.
3. Provide program support and re-integration strategies for suspended/limited expelled students.
4. Build partnerships and linkages with community agencies and/or treatment providers (e.g. mental health services, behaviour management, recreational and community programs and individual counselling).
5. Improve decision making processes so that students' needs are recognized early on and in a timely manner for school board and community based services.
6. Engage students and parents in encouraging and supporting positive school behaviour.

Please note, in the selection of projects, special consideration will be given to those that target one or more of the following: the needs of racialized students; the needs of students with special education needs; projects that provide evidence of linkages to local community agencies and services as well as programs funded/supported by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) such as School-Based Prevention/Diversion Projects. The Ministry will also consider geography and school environment when selecting projects. If the proposals focus on Grades 7-12, it must show evidence of involvement and support by the Student Success Leader at the school board/school authority.

Funding

The Ministry of Education will provide one-time funding to school boards/school authorities to expand/enhance existing program(s)/practice(s) for the 2006-07 school year in accordance with the criteria stated above. Funding details will be provided in the transfer payment agreements for those projects selected.

Funds may not be used for the purchase or leasing of permanent space or permanent staffing positions. Funding expenditures may include, but are not limited to, programs/resources; staff training; required transportation; and short term staffing positions.

Some examples of how the funding may be used:

- To extend the grade range of currently offered programs (e.g., expand a successful 9-12 program to 7-12).
- To expand a successful current whole-school program from a pilot school to all the schools in a board or a family of schools.
- To provide support for partnerships and linkages to outside services as well as integration of services (e.g. a mental health provider) by a school board that would allow the board to increase the number of at-risk students being served and increase the level of the service.

MODEL PROJECTS TO PROMOTE POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

- To provide staff development opportunities for teachers, Child and Youth Workers (CYWs), social workers, administrators and psychologists directly involved in prevention and early intervention programs for all students, in partnership with other community agencies (e.g. from Public Health Department).
- To expand the focus of a school level prevention program to students with special needs.

Program Evaluation

Each Model Project selected for funding by the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services will be part of an evaluation to be conducted by an external independent evaluator on effective practices.

School boards/school authorities will be required to provide baseline and follow-up (depersonalized) school and student level information/data to an evaluator contracted by the Ministry, ensuring compliance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act*.

Proposals must also provide indicators of how the outcomes of the program(s)/project(s) will be measured.

Accountability and Reporting

Successful applicants will:

- Sign a contractual agreement with the Ministry of Education for the Model Projects funding.
- Submit all required reports as requested by the Ministry of Education in the specified timelines and format. The Ministry may also share results with other school boards/school authorities and/or partners/stakeholders/ministries.
- Cooperate and work with external evaluator hired to conduct an independent program evaluation of selected projects.

Have any Questions?

Staff in the Ministry of Education's Regional Offices are available to answer any questions or concerns as you prepare for the regional working sessions (see contact list attached).

Timelines

Boards/school authorities will be provided with Application Forms at the regional working sessions and proposals must then be submitted within a two week period following your regional session to your Ministry of Education's Regional Office. All proposals will be reviewed by both the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services. Successful applicants will be informed of the results within three weeks of the Ministry of Education receiving the last of the proposals.