

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



Memorandum To: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Director of Provincial and Demonstration Schools

From: George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Date: September 26, 2013

Subject: Creating Pathways to Success: An Education and Career/Life
Planning Program for Ontario Schools, Policy and Program
Requirements, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2013

Attached to this memo, please find a new policy document: *Creating Pathways to Success: An Education and Career/Life Planning Program for Ontario Schools, Policy and Program Requirements, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2013* (CPS). This document describes a comprehensive education and career/life planning program for implementation being as of September 2013 that is designed to help students achieve their personal goals and become competent, successful and contributing members of society.

A key guiding principle in Ontario's Student Success Strategy is the belief that students are more engaged, confident and successful when education responds to their unique interests, strengths, needs, and aspirations. CPS puts students at the centre of their own learning, empowering them to design and plan their education and life by helping them learn more about themselves, their goals, their opportunities and who they want to become. In an environment that encourages such learning, students develop confidence because their school programs are created with them in mind, that the world beyond school has something to offer them, and that they have something to offer the world.

CPS supercedes *Choices Into Action: Guidance and Career Education Program Policy for Ontario Elementary and Secondary School, 1999*. The new policy's goals are to:

- ensure that students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make informed education and career/life choices through the application of a four-step inquiry process;

- provide opportunities for this learning both in and outside the classroom; and
- engage parents and the broader community in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the program, to support students in their learning.

Please share this information with elementary and secondary school administrators, board superintendents and program staff. A limited number of copies will be printed and distributed to school boards and schools later this fall.

Preparation for CPS has already begun in all of our school boards. A preview of CPS for Grades 10 to 12 was released to the boards in December 2012, along with funding to ensure that students in Grades 7 to 12 are supported in their planning through the use of a web-based Individual Pathways Plan (IPP). In addition, in November 2012 and April 2013, each board had an opportunity, as part of the twice annual Student Success School Cross Panel Teams training, to review the draft policy outlined in the preview document and discuss resources and strategies to support implementation. The new policy was also positively received at regional professional development sessions on the preview document that were held for guidance counsellors and cooperative education teachers in May 2013. Finally, the newest curriculum documents that were released in June 2013 for Social Sciences and Humanities have a section on education and career/life planning that refers to CPS's career/life program and its framework of inquiry questions.

For the 2013-14 year, schools and boards are asked to focus on the planning and the establishment of processes and resources needed to support fuller implementation of the policy in 2014-15. This year, boards are required to:

- continue the implementation of a web-based Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) for students in Grades 7 to 12, as outlined in the preview document, *Creating Pathways to Success: A Preview for Grades 10 to 12 of the New Education and Career/Life Planning Program For Ontario Schools*, released in the Deputy Minister's memo of December 11, 2012 and supported by funding released in a memo on January 8, 2013.
- develop a plan for the implementation of a comprehensive education and career/life planning program in each elementary and secondary school, based on the process outlined in the policy document.

Further information regarding regional information sessions and implementation funding will follow shortly in a memo from Assistant Deputy Ministers Mary Jean Gallagher and Janine Griffore.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to working with you to support education and career/life planning for all students.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Zegarac". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

George Zegarac
Deputy Minister

Attachment

- c. Mary Jean Gallagher, ADM, Student Achievement Division
- Janine Griffore, ADM, French-Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division
- EDU Regional Managers
- Student Success Leaders