

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Partnership Table Members
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

DATE: August 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Encouraging Facility Partnerships

The Ministry of Education has been working to address a number of the recommendations of the Declining Enrolment Working Group in order to improve support for school boards and students and make the best use of our schools, which are valuable public assets.

As you are aware, partnerships between school boards and their communities can bring significant benefits to boards, students and communities. In order to encourage more sharing of schools, the ministry has developed a Facility Partnerships Policy that is outlined in the attached draft memorandum to school boards. This new policy seeks to encourage school boards to work with their community partners in order to maximize opportunities to share facilities when building new schools and undertaking significant renovations, and when considering the use of unoccupied space in schools.

The ministry is looking for your feedback about this new policy. Feedback should focus on how to make this policy more effective so boards and communities can promote the goals of improving student achievement and making the best use of public assets. After reviewing the feedback, the ministry will update and send the memo in its final form. The ministry will review the impact of this new policy through the course of the year to determine appropriate revisions to policy directions and/or regulations to support effective implementation.

Boards, sector organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to communicate their comments on this policy to the ministry at BSB.GPL@Ontario.ca with the subject line Facility Partnerships Feedback, by October 9, 2009.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naylor".

for
Nancy Naylor
Assistant Deputy Minister
Business and Finance Division