

Ministry of Education

Minister

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



Ontario

November 3, 2016

Dear colleagues,

As you know, promoting and supporting well-being is one of the four interconnected goals of Achieving Excellence, Ontario's renewed vision for education: achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence. We are proud of this vision for education and its specific focus on well-being. As part of this shared vision, we want all students in Ontario to succeed and achieve their full potential.

Over the coming months, the ministry will be engaging with its partners online and by visiting communities all across the province to discuss well-being in our schools.

I am writing today to ask for your participation in this important and exciting work, and I am pleased to share with you a copy of our Engagement Paper, *Well-Being in Our Schools, Strength in our Society*. I encourage you to share your thoughts by visiting our well-being webpage, at [www.ontario.ca/studentwellbeing](http://www.ontario.ca/studentwellbeing).

To ensure we are reaching as many people as possible, please share this broadly with your colleagues and partners. We are looking for insights on three themes: understanding well-being, promoting and supporting student well-being, and knowing our impact.

The evidence has shown that children and students who have strong relationships and a positive sense of self are in a better position to reach their full potential.

This engagement paper is intended to further our progress on the goal of promoting well-being and better understand the challenges and opportunities in ensuring students' cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs are being met. We will continue to build on the discussions and work already happening to promote well-being in our schools, use this input to help move to the next level, and improve our publicly funded education system.

To support this work, the ministry is hosting regional engagements across Ontario. In addition, we are encouraging community members to organize their own discussions on well-being and submit their feedback to the ministry. The ministry has also created an Engagement Kit to help communities host their own discussions with local parents, students, community groups and partners.

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.

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This engagement is critically important to ensuring that our work to promote well-being in schools is meaningful and effective. So once again, I encourage you and your partners to share your ideas and provide feedback by January 15, 2017, at: [www.ontario.ca/studentwellbeing](http://www.ontario.ca/studentwellbeing).

Thank you for your leadership and ongoing commitment to support Ontario's children and students to reach their full potential in school and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH', written in a cursive style.

Mitzie Hunter, MBA

Minister

Enclosure