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MEMORANDUM TO:

Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers Responsible for Special Education
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Director of Provincial Schools Branch
MCYS/MCSS and EDU Regional Offices

FROM:

Grant Clarke
Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning and Curriculum Division
Ministry of Education

Aryeh Gitterman
Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Development and Program Design Division
Ministry of Children and Youth Services

David Carter-Whitney
Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Policy Development Division
Ministry of Community and Social Services

DATE:

January 28, 2013

SUBJECT:

Integrated Transition Planning for Young People with Developmental Disabilities

The purpose of this memo is to provide updated tri-ministry direction on integrated transition planning to support young people with developmental disabilities.

The ministries of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), Community and Social Services (MCSS) and Education (EDU) are working collaboratively to build on and improve the continuum of transition supports for young people with developmental disabilities. It is a shared understanding of the ministries that integrated transition planning among youth with developmental disabilities and their

families, service providers, school boards, school authorities, provincial and/or demonstration schools supports smooth transitions to work, further education, participation in life activities and community living.

Collaborative planning processes are expected in the development of the Individual Education Plans (IEP) for students with special education needs, including those with developmental disabilities. Similarly, a draft Provincial Transition Planning Framework was introduced in 2011 by MCYS and MCSS to improve transition planning support to young people with developmental disabilities who are preparing to transition to adulthood. Regional protocols were developed by MCYS/MCSS regional offices to guide local transition planning for young people with developmental disabilities in 2012 and a number of school boards participated in the protocol development process. The intent of integrated transition planning is to build on effective collaborative transition planning practices, facilitate a smooth and comprehensive transition experience and to support positive transition outcomes for each young person with a developmental disability and their family/caregiver.

It is the shared goal of the ministries that district school boards, school authorities, provincial and/or demonstration schools and MCYS/MCSS regional offices will work together to integrate District School Board and MCYS/MCSS processes by revising and building on the current regional protocols to outline a new process that will lead to the development of a single integrated transition plan for every young person with a developmental disability. We would like to support you in the development of the revised protocols that will guide the development of a single transition plan for young people with developmental disabilities with a view to implementation beginning in the 2013-14 school year.

To begin the protocol revision process, in February 2013, MCYS/MCSS regional offices and EDU field offices will jointly lead initial meetings with local district school boards and agencies to outline the vision for integrated transition planning processes as well as the next steps for school board involvement in regional protocol revision. These regional meetings will also allow participants to engage in cross-sector discussions to identify practices and local considerations to enhance and support integrated transition planning. Materials to support this process will be distributed for the regional meetings.

As part of the ongoing protocol revision process, other stakeholders will be invited to provide input, including youth with a developmental disability and their families.

This memo forms an addendum to the *2011 Draft Provincial Transition Planning Framework: Transition Planning for Young People with Developmental Disabilities* (attached) to achieve integration with EDU transition planning.

We appreciate your support as we move forward in partnership to improve transition planning supports for students with developmental disabilities and their families.

If you have any questions, please contact Jane Cleve, Director, Specialized Services and Supports Branch (MCYS) at (416) 325-5531, Carol Latimer, Director, Community and Developmental Services Branch (MCSS) at (416) 325-5359, or Barry Finlay, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch (EDU) at (416) 325-2889.

Originals signed by:

Grant Clarke

Aryeh Gitterman

David Carter-Whitney

Attachment

c: Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
Chairs of Special Education Advisory Committees