

CODE

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

TO: Ontario Directors of Education
FROM: Frank Kelly
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DATE: September 4, 2014

“Every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of ancestry, culture, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, physical and intellectual ability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or other factors.”

(Achieving Excellence, Ministry of Education, 2014)

Since the release of the provincial Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) policy in 2009, Ontario school boards have established equity and inclusive education policies, and developed approaches to implementation of these policies based on their own internal organizational frameworks, processes and local contexts.

Today, I am pleased to introduce and share with you an additional resource to support boards as they fully implement the principles of Equity and Inclusive Education.

Developed by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE), in consultation with a representative group of English- and French-language board system leaders and with support and funding from the Ministry, *Equity and Inclusive Education: Going Deeper* provides Ontario school boards with a tool for:

- a) supporting current implementation of their equity and inclusive education policy through more intensive applications;
- b) assessing progress made in their equity and inclusive education policy in order to enhance implementation; and
- c) determining their own pathways towards full integration of equity and inclusive education into school and board improvement and multi-year strategic planning.

Presented in the form of a rubric, *Going Deeper* establishes a set of policy outcomes. It is intended to assist and support boards in achieving the best academic and social outcomes among all students.

This useful resource builds on the positive work that has been achieved to date in equity and inclusive education in Ontario's schools and boards. Further, *Equity and Inclusive Education: Going Deeper* provides an opportunity for boards to look to the future, and take those steps that will support continued implementation in order that *all* students can reach their full potential, regardless of background or personal circumstances.

We are calling *Equity and Inclusive Education: Going Deeper* a “working document.” That’s because, to further assist boards as they employ the rubric contained in this resource, CODE will be working with representative boards during this school year to identify effective practices, strategies and lessons learned. The information and suggestions gathered through this collaboration will be added to the document throughout 2015 and shared with all district school boards. The aim is to deepen and extend implementation of the principles of Equity and Inclusive Education into multi-year school and board improvement plans.

Equity and Inclusive Education: Going Deeper is now available on the CODE website. Please encourage leaders in your board to visit www.ontariodirectors.ca to download and use the rubric.

During the upcoming *Creating a Culture of Belonging: Implementing Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy* session, hosted by the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) in conjunction with the Ministry of Education regional sessions, there will be an opportunity for board teams to become more familiar with the rubric, and discuss with their colleagues how this resource can assist them. I am confident that system leaders and trustees will find the rubric most helpful as they continue to fully integrate the principles and practices of Equity and Inclusive Education into all the work they do.

On behalf of CODE, my sincere thanks to the boards that assisted the rubric development team with their thoughtful comments, recommendations and insights. These valuable contributions led to a more comprehensive and useful resource.

And thank you to everyone for your continued support and commitment to Equity and Inclusiveness in your school system, and for the good work that happens each and every day in your schools.

My best wishes for a successful school year.

Regards



Frank Kelly