



CODE Statement on the Ministry of Education's Updates to Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 128

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The Council of Ontario Directors of Education, representing the 73 Directors of Education across Ontario's publicly funded school boards, recently learned about the immediate changes to *PPM 128 The provincial code of conduct and school board codes of conduct*. Directors and all school/board staff support practices that provide for safe, orderly, and respectful behaviours from all members of the school community, including students, parents, staff and community members.

We recognize that the degree of civility within communities across the province and country has eroded over the past few years, resulting in increasing disrespectful behaviour occurring within schools and offices. The growing use and acceptance of profanity, bullying, and aggression has impacted the culture of mutual respect and learning in our classrooms, school yards, offices, and sporting events. Additionally, the inappropriate use of social media and cell phone use by some of our students is disruptive and distracting from creating high quality teaching and learning environments that are critical to achieving exemplary outcomes for all students.

We know from experience that the best way to make improvements in the development of positive policies and programs in support of student learning begins with the contributions of all participants in the education sector. The consultation on PPM 128 has been limited and selective and as a result, the voices of many key participants in the educational community have been left out of its development. Unfortunately, ignoring some key voices, perspectives and experiences will likely result in inconsistent implementation, and/or unintended negative consequences.

We all agree that Ontario's students deserve to learn in high quality classrooms and in schools that are safe and respectful. Positive and constructive change happens when the views of all participants are included and respected. A delay in the implementation of PPM 128 to include evidence-based practices with intentional participant consultation will yield a more effective outcome for our students. Together, we can do better.