

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



March 22, 2018

Dear colleagues,

As you know, we are committed to ensuring that every student has access to the supports they need to succeed in school and in life.

Every student in Ontario deserves to enjoy good mental health and well-being. Our kids cannot learn, thrive or be successful if they are not happy, healthy and well. As such, it is imperative we persevere in the promotion, prevention and early intervention of child and youth mental health and addictions issues.

Our students today are facing some of the most serious mental health challenges in their lives. Many students are having trouble dealing with stress, managing anxiety, or suffering from depression. It is so important we do everything we can to give our kids the help they need and the support they deserve.

Yesterday, our government announced a system-wide transformation of mental health and addictions supports by funding new resources to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and the Ministry of Education. This investment of \$2.1 billion over four years will help us meet the commitments laid out in our [Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy](#). Ontarians deserve to access the mental health and addictions care they need -- when they need it, where they need it and how they need it.

As part of this transformation, our ministry will:

- provide 400 new mental health workers in secondary schools;
- embed Social Emotional Learning (SEL) throughout the refreshed curriculum; and
- enhance training for educators and school staff on mental health literacy.

These initiatives will help address the increasing need for mental health and addictions supports for students in every secondary school. These new investments are another important step towards improving mental health and addictions supports for students across the province.

A separate memo from Deputy Minister Bruce Rodrigues to directors of education will provide more detail around this funding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing commitment to support our students to become successful, productive and actively engaged citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Indira Naidoo-Harris  
Minister of Education  
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care