



**ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION**

Leading Education's Advocates

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Cathy Abraham
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May 19, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

Dear Minister:

We are writing today to raise an issue that has been brought to our attention by several of our member boards. A May 5 memo from Assistant Deputy Minister Cordelia Abankwa to Directors of Education and the Edvance Christian Schools Association regarding a new pilot of the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) in private schools "encourages" District School Boards to "include Edvance in upcoming networking opportunities and to reach out to them to share your promising practices and lessons learned."

While our member boards are fully committed to building and supporting the OYAP in our publicly funded schools to provide new and exciting opportunities for students, we cannot support this request.

Our communities must be assured that public funding remains directed to public education, and not private schools.

Please reconsider this request and provide clarification to school boards as soon as possible.

Regards,

Cathy Abraham
President

CC: Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister
Jeff Brennan, Director of Stakeholder Relations