

Ministry of Education

Student Support and Field Services Division
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Ministry of Health

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Date: June 26, 2023

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Chief Executive Officers, Home and Community Care Support
Services and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

From: Rhonda McMichael
Assistant Deputy Minister
Strategic Partnerships Division

Clayton La Touche
Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Support and Field Services
Division

Subject: Health Services in Schools

In order to best support students who require nursing services in school, we are writing to request the earliest possible planning with Home and Community Care Support Services organizations and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. This will help secure appropriate arrangements for children to attend school where health services in schools are required.

We are also writing to provide an update for school boards on the Family-Managed Home Care (FMHC) Program.

The FMHC program, also known as Self-Directed Care (SDC), is an alternative method for home care service delivery where eligible home care clients or their substitute decision-maker(s) receive funding to purchase or employ providers to deliver services in their care plan. Under the program specifications, nursing services provided in schools were excluded from FMHC. In the past two school years, the Ministry of Health allowed nursing services in schools to be delivered through FMHC, where the schools permitted, and where Home and Community Care Support Services organizations or the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) were

unable to provide timely and reliable nursing services in school through traditional home care arranged by Home and Community Care Support Services or CHEO.

Based on that experience, the Ministry of Health is amending the SDC program specifications to include nursing services in schools with the same parameters on an ongoing basis.

Family-Managed Home Care Program

Through the FMHC program, eligible clients or, if applicable, their substitute decision-makers may purchase nursing services provided as “nursing services in school” for eligible clients, including children with complex needs or clients in extraordinary circumstances.

Clients will only be eligible for the FMHC program for nursing services provided as “nursing services in a school” if the child’s school and the applicable school board permit the nurse to provide the services in the school.

The ministries appreciate the continued partnership among schools, school boards, Home and Community Care Support Services and CHEO, and care providers and families, in supporting students who require nursing services at school. Where applicable, the Ministry of Education encourages school boards to enter Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with families and providers to set out expectations for access to school sites. The Ministry of Education understands that some boards have previously developed MOUs for similar purposes and encourages boards to share lessons learned.

Thank you for your partnership and ongoing support as we work together to jointly support students who require these vital services.



Rhonda McMichael
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health



Clayton La Touche
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education

- [c:] Supervisory Officers (Special Education)
Chair, Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l’Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association (OECTA)
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF)

Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)

Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)

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Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)

Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)

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