

**August 18, 2021**

**Memorandum to:** Chairs of District School Boards  
Directors of Education  
School Authorities

**From:** Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

**Subject:** Revised Policy/Program Memorandum No.151:  
Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education  
Priorities

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Thank you for your collaboration in supporting professional learning for educators and staff for the upcoming school year. In follow-up to the memo issued on May 4, 2021 “Planning for the 2021-22 School Year” (2021: B07), which provided the topics for the three mandatory Professional Activity (PA) Days for the 2021-22 school year, we are pleased to issue the revised [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) No. 151: Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities](#).

PPM 151 has been revised for the 2021-22 school year to reflect the ministry’s directions on PA Days as well as to provide additional considerations and resources pertaining to education priorities. The three mandatory PA days for the 2021-22 school year will address the following topics:

- health and safety protocols, mental health and well-being
- learning recovery and intervention strategies
- mathematics, including the elementary math curriculum and Grade 9 de-streamed math course
- anti-racism, anti-discrimination training
- instructional approaches to online/remote learning
- anti-sex trafficking and anti-bullying, including cyber-bullying

These mandatory PA day topics can be delivered in an integrated manner. For example, when discussing health and safety protocols, transition planning to prepare students with special education or mental health needs for a successful re-entry to school could be addressed. School boards should also consider how they can integrate support for students with special education needs and address anti-racism, anti-discrimination and inclusion across all professional learning topics.

To ensure readiness for the 2021-22 school year, the ministry encourages school boards to address the following topics prior to the start of student instruction:

- health and safety protocols
- mental health and well-being
- learning recovery and intervention strategies

Customizable materials to support the implementation of these PA Days are now available on the ministry's Virtual Learning Environment, within the Restarting the School Year e-Community. Please include the name of a board representative to receive access to the Restarting the School Year e-Community using the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/nrGjKW2ysB>. Individuals who are provided access will be able to share these resources with their boards.

The revised [PPM No. 151 is posted on the ministry website](#).

### **Learning and innovation fund for teachers (LIFT)**

The 2021-22 Priorities and Partnerships Funding memo (2021: B10) issued on May 4, 2021 provided information about a new Learning and Innovation Fund for Teachers (LIFT). This funding has been provided to school boards and is directly linked to PA Day topics to emphasize the interconnected nature of professional learning that will continue throughout the 2021-22 school year. LIFT will enable school boards to support teacher collaboration, learning and sharing of effective practices.

The LIFT funding may be used in accordance with local needs and in alignment with provincial priorities as set out in the school board's funding agreement. For example, the agreement may provide that the funding may be used to:

- initiate an application process for interested teacher teams to apply for funding
- identify specific schools or school teams with innovative practices they wish to support
- create new or augment existing professional learning designs for teachers

Funding amounts are tiered based on school board enrollment. Board by board allocations can be found in [Appendix A of the Priorities and Partnership Funding memo](#).

If you have not already provided contact information, please forward [this LIFT Contact Form](#) to your identified school board lead to complete. We will use this information to provide further communication and support materials. Any questions about the program can be directed to [LIFT-AILEE@ontario.ca](mailto:LIFT-AILEE@ontario.ca).

The ministry will continue to work with school boards and education partners to provide ongoing learning opportunities and resources throughout the school year. If you have any questions, please contact your regional office.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lecce  
Minister

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

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