

May 1, 2020

Subject: Regulatory Changes to the Education Act to Address Student Trustee Elections

Memorandum To: Directors of Education

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject Regulatory Changes to the *Education Act* to Address Student Trustee Elections

I am writing to you to let you know that on April 30, 2020, a regulation to amend Ontario Regulation 7/07: Student Trustees under the *Education Act* was filed with the Registrar of Regulations. These changes are now in effect.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the provincial government made regulatory changes to amend the requirements for student trustee elections as outlined in O. Reg. 7/07. In particular, the amendments will extend the April 30 deadline for elections for two-year student trustees to September 30, 2020, for the 2020/2021 school year only. Additionally, the amendments allow for student trustees elected at this later date to receive the full amount of the honorarium (\$2,500 for each year).

As you may be aware, under O. Reg. 7/07, student trustees may be elected directly by their peers and indirectly by student representative bodies such as student councils.

Student trustees begin their term of office on August 1. The amendments to O. Reg. 7/07 provide that if an election is held after August 1, a student trustee's term would begin when they are elected. Furthermore, the term of office of student trustees yet to be elected will begin no later than September 30, 2020, and end on July 31, 2022 for a two-year term. This will ensure that the later election date will not impact the end date of the term of office. As noted above, the honoraria for student trustees elected later than usual, would be retroactive to August 1, 2020, when their term would have normally started.

Finally, as you are likely aware, under O. Reg. 7/07, school boards must develop and implement a student trustee policy. Accordingly, your school board may need to consider revising its policies on student trustees to provide for indirect elections (e.g., by student representative bodies like student councils) as provided for in the regulation.

For more information on the regulatory amendments, please refer directly to the [O. Reg. 7/07](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support and work to maintain school board operations during these unprecedented circumstances. Your engagement and partnership continue to be crucial to supporting Ontario's students, families, educators, and education system.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education

- c: Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Student Trustees' Association — l'Association des élèves conseillers et conseillères de l'Ontario (OSTA)
Coordinator, Regroupement des élèves conseiller.ère.s francophones de l'Ontario (RECFO)
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)