

October 4, 2023

Date: October 4, 2023

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Kate Manson-Smith
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: **Cyber Awareness Resources**

As part of the 2023-24 Cyber Protection Strategy initiative, the ministry is committed to developing and sharing flexible resources to support a collaborative approach between the ministry and school boards/authorities (boards) – to improve cyber awareness in boards in the areas of cyber security, protection of privacy and online safety. This year, resources are again available to all school boards and authorities as described below.

Cyber Awareness Calendar

To support a year-round approach on improving online safety, protection of privacy, and cyber security, a cyber awareness calendar is available with monthly themes and monthly information sheets to provide further information on each theme and best practice considerations. These documents can be used online or printed for use in learning and office spaces.

New this year, an interactive calendar is also available with curated information about different cyber-related events occurring throughout the year, some of which may be coordinated by industry or different organizations. Some boards may wish to learn more about these events and determine their own level of participation.

Cyber Awareness Month (CAM)

Resources to support the annual K-12 Cyber Awareness Month (K-12 CAM) in October 2023 – have been developed in partnership with school boards, the Educational Computing Network of Ontario (ECNO), the government’s Cyber Security Division, and various ministry stakeholders. Each week in October will feature a different cyber focus, with custom videos, posters, games, and links to curated resources from reputable sources, made available to all boards.

New this year, a K-12 Zone was developed by the government’s Cyber Security Division in partnership with the ministry, boards and other stakeholders. The K-12 Zone features cyber security games, articles, videos and quizzes and will also be available to all boards throughout the year. Additionally, the annual Ontario Public Service (OPS) CAM campaign will be launching

on October 3, 2023, with additional resources for teachers and board staff. Participants of Ontario's CAM campaign will gain access to new weekly content, which includes exciting games, interactive articles and videos on cyber security topics such as online privacy and password safety.

The K-12 CAM campaign is a modified version of the internationally recognized Cyber Security Awareness Month campaign, tailored for the needs of the Ontario K-12 education environment.

As these and other resources become available online for the [K-12 CAM](#), [cyber awareness calendar](#), [K-12 Zone](#), and the [OPS CAM](#), we encourage you to share the resources within your board and continue to advocate for greater awareness of good cyber security, cyber safety and online privacy practices to help reduce cyber risk – helping to keep our students, educators, schools and school boards better protected online.

Information in these resources has been targeted to a range of audiences: students, parents, and educators. Your feedback on how we might continue to improve the quality of cyber awareness resources is welcomed.

If you have any questions about the resources, please contact the project team at EDU.Cyber@ontario.ca.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you in your cyber protection efforts in support of safer, more secure, online environment for school boards, schools, students and educators.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Manson-Smith
Deputy Minister

c: Rocco Passero, Chief Information Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Services I&IT Cluster
Yael Ginsler, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division
Roxanne Hotte, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), French-language Teaching, Learning and Achievement Division
Suzanne Gordon, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Indigenous Education and Well Being Division
Patrick Byam, Director, Safe & Healthy Schools Branch, Indigenous Education and Well Being Division
Clayton LaTouche, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Student Support and Field Services Division
Andrew Locker (A), Director, Field Services Branch
Stephany Balogh, Executive Director, Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch
Patrick Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Equity Secretariat
Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour & Finance Division

Louis Dimitracopoulos, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Management and Services Division

Phil Graham, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning Division

Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years & Child Care Division

Didem Proulx, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capital & Business Support Division

Carm Scarfo, Director, Data Collection & Decision Support Solutions Branch, Community Services I&IT Cluster

Field Services Branch Regional Managers, Field Services Branch

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)

Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)

Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)

Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)

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

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

Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)