

Memorandum to: Directors of Education

School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor

Deputy Minister

I am writing today to inform you of the requirements specific to welcoming students coming to Ontario from outside of Canada for the 2020-21 school year.

Ontario has been participating in ongoing discussions with the federal government on how to confirm and support school boards' readiness to welcome back international students. In July, the federal government issued some guidance and direction and on August 7, 2020, the Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, received a letter from Health Canada setting out further requirements to be met by Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs) in order to welcome international students.

The direction from Health Canada now requires that some additional criteria be demonstrated as part of plans for schools, and that both provincial and local public health authorities have a role in determining whether schools are ready to accept students from outside Canada (please see Appendix 1 for criteria).

All school boards intending to accept students from outside Canada must have plans in place that include specific details about how they will meet the provincial and federal criteria to demonstrate readiness (as described further below). Plans should be submitted to the ministry to facilitate the ministry providing the federal government with an ongoing list of DLIs that have been deemed ready. That list will be updated regularly as plans are submitted to the ministry and the ministry shares them with the necessary local and provincial officials.

School boards in Ontario have the option to provide online learning for international students for the partial or full 2020-21 school year. The ministry will support an ongoing review process, without specific deadlines, as we anticipate that school boards may transition international students from online learning to in-person learning in Ontario throughout the 2020-21 school year.

Please note that school boards that do not plan to enroll international students in the 2020-21 school year do not need to provide a response. Health Canada has also indicated that it will review a sample of school board plans in collaboration with Ontario officials to confirm the plans meet federal expectations. The Ministry of Education will work with Health Canada on this request and provide further updates to you as needed.

A checklist has been developed to assist school boards in submitting their plans to the ministry. Please do not submit your plans to your local public health unit. The ministry, working with other government partners, will facilitate the review of your plans, including working with local public health officials for the necessary review and approvals.

Appendix 1 to Report 20-079

I would draw your attention to the following criteria in particular: as part of your plans, school boards will need to address how they will oversee the 14-day quarantine period for all international students coming to Ontario from outside of Canada. This should include transporting arriving international students from the airport to their quarantine or isolation location and supporting and regularly checking in on those students to ensure they complete the required 14-day quarantine.

In addition, while this is not a federal requirement, the Ontario government is requiring that school boards ensure that both international and domestic students who are in quarantine as a result of having entered Canada within two weeks prior to the start of their studies are tested for the COVID-19 virus at least once during their quarantine period. This requirement is over and above the normal protocols for individuals who show symptoms.

Please note that submission of a plan will not guarantee that school boards will be able to welcome international students in the 2020-21 school year and the timelines for confirmation of approval will vary, though efforts will be made to prioritize review and approval by the multiple provincial government partners as expeditiously as possible.

Again, following local and provincial review and approval, the plans will need to be submitted to the Government of Canada which has the sole discretion regarding the decision to allow international students to enter Canada.

Please note that the ministry will not be providing any additional funding to boards to support these requirements.

As part of your submission to the ministry, please complete and include the attached Attestation for School Boards – Public Health Institutional Readiness Requirements for International Students in Ontario. Please also include a board resolution approving an international student program that meets current federal and provincial requirements for the 2020-21 school year.

Submissions should be sent to international.education@ontario.ca. If you have any questions, please contact **Matt Bera, Manager (A), Private Schools and International Education Unit (PSIE)** at matthew.bera@Ontario.ca

Thank you for your ongoing work in preparing for the Fall semester including the preparation of comprehensive plans.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor

Deputy Minister