



May 21, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

To the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education,

At the Wednesday, May 19, 2021 meeting of the Trustees of the Halton District School Board (HDSB), the following motion received unanimous approval:

Be it resolved that the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education imploring that the new de-streamed math grade 9 curriculum be released immediately so that school boards have time to review the curriculum and provide appropriate staff training before the end of the 2020-2021 school year. This letter is to be copied to Halton MPPs, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE).

The Trustees of the HDSB support the Ministry's plan to implement de-streaming in the pursuit of creating a more equitable education system. As per your own words Minister Leece, "Students, families and staff deserve an education system that is inclusive, accountable, and transparent, and one that by design, is set up to fully and equally empower all children to achieve their potential."

To ensure the successful implementation of the new de-streamed grade 9 math curriculum for September 2021, it is critical that program and teaching staff have adequate time to receive training in the delivery as well as the assessment and evaluation for this new course of study. Since the new elementary curriculum has been implemented over the past school year, a delay in the implementation of the new grade 9 math curriculum will result in an undesirable gap. This does not support student achievement. Much of the conceptual learning around the pedagogy of de-streaming has been part of professional development with teaching staff this year. An essential piece of this pedagogy is preparation which is difficult when the curriculum is yet to be available. Staff, students and the community rightly expect adequate preparation time to be afforded to all teachers so as to ensure a smooth and successful launch of this new curriculum.

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Minister, as you are well aware, teaching staff have been working extremely hard during the pandemic with many new demands. This has been a year unlike any other year in education. From a health and well-being perspective, it is our expectation that staff re-energize during the summer months in order to prepare for the upcoming school year. We understand from media reports that the de-streamed grade 9 math curriculum is complete and awaiting final approval prior to distribution. We urge you to release the curriculum immediately to give secondary school teaching staff time to be trained on the delivery of the new curriculum. This will support students in fully and equitably achieving their potential during the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,



Andréa Grebenc
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Halton District School Board

Cc: MPP Ted Arnott,
MPP Stephen Crawford,
MPP Parm Gill,
MPP Jane McKenna,
MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos,
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Member Board Chairs
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)