



THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

51 Stuart Street, Hamilton, Ontario L8L 1B5
Telephone: (905) 308-9563
E-mail: info@ofhsa.on.ca
www.ofhsa.on.ca

November 30, 2017

Dana Skalin,
Education Funding Branch
Ministry of Education
Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Re: PPM161 (draft) — Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy) in Schools

Dear Ms. Skalin:

Each year the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations (OFHSA) engages in providing feedback into education funding through the Grants for Student's Needs (GSN's) and welcomes the opportunity presented to engage in conversations beyond the themes outlined in the 2018-2019 Education Funding Engagement Guide.

Members of OFHSA passed a policy calling for *'every publicly funded school in the Province of Ontario to have a Public Health Nurse on site full time.'* Members are resolute in the call for a full time nurse on each school site as these professionals provide the foundational knowledge to ensure that our schools are healthy, safe, and inclusive for all students.

In consideration of PPM161 (draft), we urge you to consider the physiological, psychological, and financial benefits of including Public Health Nurses in the GSN's to create the necessary conditions to knit together a multi-dimensional system, *'...education and community partners, including health care professionals, have important roles to play in promoting student health and safety and in fostering and maintaining healthy and safe environments in which students can learn.'*

PPM161 (draft) Roles and Collective Responsibilities calls for a *'whole-school approach'* to making schools safer for students with prevalent medical conditions.

'Supporting students with prevalent medical conditions in schools is complex'. The Public Health Nurse is a professional, schooled in the science and/or service of public health best suited to:

- Support student well-being
- Provide individual Plans of Care for these students to manage their daily medical needs
- Determine the components to support students with prevalent medical conditions that should be included in school board policy or policies
- Assist families in rural and northern communities where programs and supports range from non-existent to fair
- Raise awareness to ensure schools are safer for students with prevalent medical conditions
- Provide for connections in community health care

Public Health Nurses authenticate school and classroom practices by:

- Supporting the system for students and staff by including a Public Health Nurse as part of strengthening provided resources
- Supporting positive preventive measures by including a Public Health Nurse as a component of the team when addressing effective practices for student behavioural concerns as connected to suspension, expulsion and exclusion

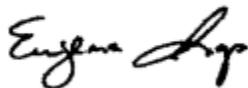
Students with prevalent medical conditions, depending on their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical stage of development, and their capacity for self-management are expected to actively participate in the development and implementation of their Plan of Care. Public Health Nurses in schools facilitate:

- Acting as an intermediary for parents and students to feel confident in the Plan of Care
- Providing effective and professional input to the Plan of Care; especially for those without a General Practitioner or in areas where services are not readily available
- Supporting daily or routine management by providing a stable spot to receive care and advice
- Serving as a resource for existing school board medical emergency procedures and a consultant for necessary change
- Raising awareness of prevalent medical conditions that affect students, providing risk prevention, emergency training as well as developing and providing appropriate resources for staff and community
- Satisfying the privacy, confidentiality and reporting standards necessary

Achieving Excellence is the inspiration for our public education system to help students succeed. The Ministry of Education has defined 'well-being' with components of emotional, physical, cognitive, and social development. Public Health Nurses, as professionals, have the knowledge and skill base to provide the service model needed in these areas to support students in their journey to well-being, now and in their future endeavours.

Achieving Excellence is an ambitious vision that challenges the education system to go beyond simply imparting curriculum to developing knowledgeable, resilient and engaged citizens. OFHSA continues to advocate on behalf of their members to support the Ministry of Education initiatives that support the vision of health and well-being to obtain "**The Best for Each Student**".

Sincerely,



Eugema Ings
President

cc The Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education
Linda Haslam-Stroud, RN, ONA President

The Best for Each Student

A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION