

Ministry of Education

Minister

315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

315, rue Front Ouest
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

October 16, 2024

Scott Sincerbox

Chair

Provincial Schools Authority

255 Ontario Street South

Milton, ON L9T 2M5

Subject: Provincial Schools Authority's Letter of Direction for 2025-26

Dear Mr. Sincerbox,

I am pleased to share our government's 2025-26 priorities for the Provincial Schools Authority (PSA).

Ontario's provincial schools provide high-quality education and opportunities for students who are Deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision and Deafblind. Your work, and the work of your fellow PSA members, ensures that issues are addressed related to the terms and conditions of employment of teachers, principals and vice-principals employed in provincially operated schools, ratification of the collective agreement, and handling grievances and leave requests.

Agencies are a part of government and are expected to act in the best interests of the people of Ontario and ensure that they provide value for money to taxpayers. Agencies are also required to adhere to government policies and directives.

Per the requirements of the Agencies and Appointments Directive, agencies are required to align goals, objectives and strategic direction with our government's priorities and direction. As Chair, you must ensure that the PSA's business plan demonstrates the agency's plans in fulfilling the expectations and government priorities below and that progress and achievements are reported through your annual report. Compliance with these requirements is reported to Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet annually.

This letter sets out my expectations for 2025-26 that the PSA is innovative, sustainable and accountable through the following direction:

Innovative

1. Simplify client/customer interactions
2. Expand and optimize digital service offerings

3. Improve Client/customer satisfaction
4. Share data with Supply Ontario, when requested, regarding procurement spending and planning, contract arrangements and vendor relations to support data-driven decision-making.

Sustainable

5. Strengthen public service delivery by optimizing organizational capacity and directing existing resources to priority areas
6. Use Public Resources efficiently and
 - a) Operate within agency's financial allocations
 - b) Prudently and responsibly manage workforce size. Where an agency requires a material increase in workforce size, the agency must provide the Minister with an HR plan for approval that provides the rationale based on government priorities and/or agency mandate

Accountable

7. Develop and report on outcome-focused performance measures to effectively monitor and measure performance
8. Protect individual, business or organization data by actively managing data and cybersecurity and reporting Artificial Intelligence uses
9. Report all high risks including effective mitigation plans
10. Align hybrid work policies with the OPS and identify and assess office optimization opportunities to reduce office realty footprint and find cost reductions
 - a) Collaborate with MOI to identify office space opportunities
 - b) Align with the MBC Realty Directive and the OPS Modern Office Space (OMOS) Standards.
11. Develop and encourage diversity and inclusion initiatives by promoting an equitable, inclusive, accessible, anti-racist and diverse workplace

Not all of the listed expectations apply to the PSA, but these are the government-wide commitments for board-governed provincial agencies. Please see the attached guide for further details of each priority and the accompanying performance measures that can be utilised if measurements are not currently in place.

I am also sharing priorities specific to the PSA:

- Carry out PSA responsibilities in a manner that promotes the delivery of quality educational services and ensures the educational needs of students in provincial schools are met.
- Working collaboratively and maintaining open lines of communication between the PSA members, Provincial Schools Authority Teacher (PSAT) union

executives and the Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch in order to efficiently address issues raised by PSAT to help maintain a positive work environment, to resolve PSAT grievances in a fair and equitable manner, to ensure compliance with the PSAT Collective Agreement and to promote transparency.

- Equipping PSA members to ensure the agency can carry out its mandate, benefitting from the contributions and expertise of each member and helping it to maintain a full complement of members.

At our next meeting, I would be pleased to discuss these priorities, and I look forward to hearing how they will be reflected in the agency's upcoming business plan and in ongoing agency operations.

Thank you and your fellow board members for your continued commitment to the PSA. Your work and ongoing support is invaluable to our government and the people of Ontario.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deputy Minister Denise Cole at Denise.A.Cole@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Education

Attachment: Government Priorities for Agency Sector Chart

cc: Denise Cole, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Louis Dimitracopoulos, Chief Administrative Officer/Assistant Deputy Minister,
Corporate Management and Services Division, Ministry of Education
Clayton La Touche, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Support and Field
Services Division, Ministry of Education