

Ministry of Education

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MEMORANDUM TO: Principals of Ontario Inspected Private Schools

FROM: Jennifer Young
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Private Schools and Attendance Unit

DATE: October 22, 2009

SUBJECT: **Inspection of Private Schools**

The Ministry of Education is committed to both the integrity of its private school inspection process and to the integrity of credits offered by inspected secondary private schools. The Ministry also recognizes that private school principals share a mutual interest in this regard.

As you know, the Ministry of Education conducts regular inspections of the standard of instruction in those private secondary schools that offer credits toward the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). This means that the structure of the courses, the quality of the teaching, and the work of the students must be sufficiently consistent with the Ministry of Education's curriculum guidelines and appropriate policy documents.

Recently, the Ministry has examined its private school practices and is placing renewed emphasis on the inspection process.

As in the past, there may be instances where inspections are required on an annual basis, and occasionally, on a more frequent basis. There may also be instances where there is a need to visit the school without notice. I am writing to inform you that unannounced inspections may be performed at the discretion of the Ministry in accordance with Section 16(6) of the *Education Act*. The focus of these inspections is normally on credit integrity.

In the instance of an unannounced inspection, the private school principal or school representative who is on-site that day will be informed of the purpose of the visit, which may or may not entail a full school inspection by the inspector upon arrival. The preliminary results and/or observations from the inspection will be communicated to the principal, as well as any follow-up actions required by the school.

There will be no fee for an unannounced inspection; however, if, as a result of the visit a scheduled inspection is required within the same school year, a full inspection fee will apply.

Jennifer Young