



Ontario
Federation of
Independent
Schools

101 Holiday Inn Drive, PO Box 29011, Cambridge, ON, N3C 0E6

Tel: 519.716.1664

Email: info@ofis.ca

Web: www.ofis.ca

Time To ReNew Your OFIS Membership! – Private school operation continues to be complex and your OFIS membership can really help by connecting you to a network of private school leaders, saving you time by providing you with important, current information and offering support to keep your school operations running smoothly. If you are renewing your school's membership for the 19/20 academic year, please complete the membership renewal application and return it along with requested documentation copies and fees by **July 1st 2019 (postmarked)** to receive a 20% early-bird discount! If you will be terminating your school's membership, **YOU MUST** email visit our website to download the 1-page membership termination form (Membership Information – Forms & Applications). **All current 18/19 members MUST indicate membership intention for the 19/20 year by August 1 2019 or be assessed membership fees for the year!**

What's Included In Your OFIS Membership?

Your school may have been a member in the past, made a recent professional inquiry from the OFIS staff, participated in our online forum and accessed valuable school resources, visited our website or signed up to receive regular e-news. We encourage you to take full advantage of *these OFIS membership benefits*:

*Representation in the largest, fastest growing, most diverse independent school association in the province – OFIS has a positive working relationship with the Private Schools Coordinator in the Field Education office of the Ministry of Education and keeps members current with all legislative and legal guidelines and expectations and assists member schools with government compliance challenges

*FREE inquiries (via, website, email, online forum or phone) to the OFIS panel of experts (legal, governance, policy) and receive prompt direction

*Receive government policy support with up-to-date compliance protocols through regular e-news, online forum, PD events, webinars throughout the school year

*FREE consultation review where we will help you organize the parameters of your school's most important projects (including referrals to legal, business & marketing support) and even provide support through projects as part of fuller, individualized consultation agreements (consultations are only available to OFIS members)

*School Validation/Inspection Readiness Packages to assist new or existing schools through the process of government validation and/or inspection by way of virtual classroom and on-site support during ministry visits .

*Special pricing & Priority Consideration on all professional development events and consultation services (individual, on-site and customized packages available – some available only to OFIS members)

*School Leadership Courses (PSP I & II) for both rookie and seasoned private school administrators

*Online Membership Forum – access to hundreds of policy templates, network with other private school leaders, post your questions and get access to OFIS experts quickly on a wide range of operational topics!

*Virtual Learning Opportunities through FREE webinars and online project consultation directed by OFIS experts

*Regular e-news containing the most up-to-date information independent schools need on events, policy updates, government compliance issues, provincial legislative expectations, school governance tips, human resources updates, financial wellness tips and marketing ideas.

*OFIS Website Directory – member schools are listed geographically – OFIS is ranked in the top five for

independent schools on search engines -

*School Management Review exclusive to OFIS members – a comprehensive review of all school operations completed with recommendations and full support

*Special pricing on products and resources offered by OFIS sponsors in the areas of marketing, online marketing, legal services, database management & record-keeping and school insurance specifically designed with private schools in mind

OFIS Membership & Ministry of Education NOI Filing

All independent schools can choose an association affiliation while completing the annual *Notice of Intention To Operate A Private School (NOI)*. However, it is unlawful under the Education Act to check a box for an association for which you will **not be a current member during the timeframe of the NOI**. OFIS has an August 1st deadline for application and the Ministry of Education has a September 1st deadline for application so there should be no confusion in stating valid association affiliation in both applications. **Both OFIS and the Ministry will assess financial penalties to schools that file fraudulently!** Schools that are checking the OFIS school association box on the 19/20 NOI **MUST** apply for 19/20 OFIS membership as well!

What Professional Development Opportunities Are Happening?

OFIS is planning to hold regional sessions in the fall where school leaders can have lunch together and share best practices and crashes. OFIS will also provide legislative, legal and policy updates to schools on those occasions. OFIS is currently searching for a School Leadership Course Coordinator and hopes to offer PSP I and II during the 19/20 school year. OFIS also has partnerships with a wide range of educational consultants who develop even more effective learning opportunities for school leaders as well as providing individual, customized consultation support to our members.

OFIS is NOW accepting membership applications for the 19/20 school year, which begins on August 1st 2019. Applications and Membership Fee Schedules are available on our website – www.ofis.ca – click membership information – forms & applications. Completed membership applications, along with requested documentation copies and fees, are due in the OFIS office no later than August 1 2018 (postmarked). Carefully review your school's completed OFIS application package before returning it as that information will be used to maintain your school's online profile on the OFIS website. Please ensure you keep a copy of your membership application on file at your school.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions about your OFIS membership or any of our resources and services.

Best Regards,

Barb Bierman

Barbara A. Bierman

Executive Director – OFIS

519.249.1665 - info@ofis.ca - www.ofis.ca

*OFIS Membership is ultimately subject to approval by the OFIS Board of Directors. OFIS can terminate membership if it determines that a school or association is in violation of OFIS core values. OFIS membership can be terminated annually by giving written notice by the annual deadline of September 1st. OFIS membership fees are non-refundable for termination or withdrawal.