



Ontario  
Federation of  
Independent  
Schools

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**You're Invited To Join A Vibrant Private School Community!** – Private school operation has become increasingly complex and membership in an association like OFIS can really help by connecting you to a network of private school leaders, saving you time by providing important, current information and offering support in keeping your school operations running smoothly. If your school is interested in joining OFIS, please complete the new member application, and return it along with requested documentation copies and fees **by AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup> 2019!** Schools new to OFIS enjoy a 20% discount in membership fees, upon application, in the first year of membership as long as they join by January 1 2020.

#### **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, 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, 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
- \*Virtual Learning Opportunities through FREE webinars and online project consultation directed by OFIS experts
- \*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!
- \*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 for implementation

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

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for application and the Ministry of Education has a September 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. Schools that join now will have the added benefit for membership privileges for the remaining months of the current membership year (ending in July 2018)**

**New Membership Application, Membership Fee Schedule are available on our website – [www.ofis.ca](http://www.ofis.ca) – click membership information – forms and applications. Completed membership applications, along with requested documentation copies and fees, are due in the OFIS office no later than August 1 2019 (postmarked). Carefully review your school's completed OFIS application package before returning it as that information will be used to create 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**

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\*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 1<sup>st</sup>. OFIS membership fees are non-refundable for termination or withdrawal.