

Memorandum to: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Paul Calandra
Minister of Education

Denise A. Cole
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: *Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025* receives Royal Assent

We are writing to inform you that the [*Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025*](#) (the Act) received Royal Assent on November 20, 2025.

The Act will strengthen government oversight and accountability in publicly funded school boards. It will also increase the safety, well-being, academic and personal achievement of students, children and youth in care.

The Act makes changes to laws administered by the Ministry of Education (EDU), the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), and the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES).

For EDU, the following amendments to the *Education Act* have been made:

Accountability and Transparency

- A single, more nimble and flexible legislative authority now enables oversight of school boards, including supervision, based on matters of public interest such as governance, finances, and educational program concerns.
- The Minister now has authority to establish mandatory requirements for school board expense policies, including discretionary spending, disclosure, and audit requirements.
- The Minister has authority to appoint ministry auditors to conduct school board audits and define the role and responsibilities of internal and external auditors.
- School boards are now required to get the Minister's approval before naming a new school or changing the name of an existing one.

Student Safety:

- School boards must work with local police, as set out in regulations, to give them access to schools, allow them to join school programs, and implement school resource officer programs, which may also be called youth engagement officer programs, where offered. Further details would be prescribed in future regulations made by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.
- The Lieutenant Governor in Council can make regulations that set out when school boards must implement school resource officer programs, when they must give police access to schools and allow participation in school programs, and how school boards should work with police.

In addition, we would like to inform you of the following requirements that are now in effect:

Enhanced police record check requirements

Amendments have been made to [Ontario Regulation 521/01: Collection of Personal Information](#) to strengthen police record check requirements. Key updates are as follows:

Additional individuals

- School boards are now required under the updated regulation to collect police record checks from volunteers and students on educational placements.

Increased frequency

- School boards must collect a new police record check
 - from employees, service providers, and volunteers every five years.
 - any time an individual is charged with, or convicted of, an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada (as soon as reasonably possible).

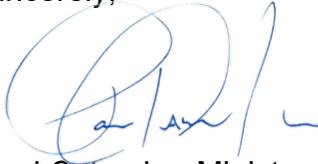
Updated terminology of the type of checks required

- Individuals in a position of trust or authority in relation to students will require a vulnerable sector check (VSC).
- Individuals not in a position of trust or authority in relation to students will require a criminal record and judicial matters check (CRJMC).

More detailed information is available in Appendix A to support school board implementation of the enhanced police record check requirements. Additionally, the Ministry of Education will be offering online webinars for school boards in the coming weeks to review the new police check requirements and answer questions.

As always, we want to thank you for your continued collaboration and ongoing commitment to the students of Ontario. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead to ensure successful implementation of these important reforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Calandra".

Paul Calandra, Minister of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise A. Cole".

Denise A. Cole, Deputy Minister of Education

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A – Police Record Checks Questions & Answers
2. Appendix B – Sample Letter for Police Record Checks