



Student Injury Prevention Initiative



Safety
First

Student Injury Prevention Initiative

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT



Safety
First

Background

- Between September 2011 and June 2012, Ministry of Labour (MOL) inspectors visited Ontario schools to determine compliance with minimum requirement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and its regulations.
 - Focused on chemical storage, housekeeping practices, equipment maintenance and safe operation of equipment
 - Other assessment criteria were availability of appropriate personal protective equipment, eye-wash stations and dousing showers.
- Outcome: MOL released their report with over 6,600 non-compliance orders including 283 ‘stop work’ orders.



Safety
First

Funding Announcement

- Deputy Minister Zegarac announced a one-time funding allocation of \$9.9 million to be provided to all school boards for supporting a culture of safety mindedness. This includes a priority focus on procedures and environmental concerns in technological education facilities and science labs.
- There are two components to this funding:
 1. Funding for improvements to board-level safety activities (a minimum of 35%); and
 2. Funding for safety issues and environmental concerns in technological education facilities and science labs (a maximum of 65%).



**Safety
First**

Board-Level Safety

- A minimum of 35% of funding for expenditures related to:
 - Board Plan Development/Update
 - Review and develop/update existing health and safety plan(s); and/or
 - Conduct an independent inspection of technological education facilities and science labs.
 - Board Plan Implementation
 - Provide professional development for staff and for training students; and/or
 - Develop or enhance board communication/awareness/promotional activities for staff and students.



**Safety
First**

Safety and Environmental Concerns

- A maximum of 65% of funding for expenditures related to:
 - Installation of emergency safety stops and machine guards, lock out procedures and upgrades to shop ventilation, eye-wash stations, chemical storage cabinets, etc.
 - Costs related to the certification and repair of equipment; and/or
 - Safe operation of equipment in technological facilities and science labs.



Safety
First

Project Objectives

- This one-time funding is intended to ensure that:
 - Students have access to the broadest range of hands-on learning experiences in their technological education facilities and science labs using safe equipment in risk-free environments.
 - Boards and schools have an up-to-date health and safety plan.
 - School staff have a safety mindset and have relevant and current expertise to address injury prevention in technological education facilities and science labs.



**Safety
First**

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

- The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) will assist the Ministry with coordination of this initiative.
 - A CODE health and safety team of experts in the area of science and technological safety within school settings will be established.
 - Boards will be able to access advisory support at their discretion and based on local needs.
 - Boards will provide a report on how funds were spent to the CODE on or before September 30, 2013.



**Safety
First**

Student Injury Prevention Initiative

SCOPE OF CODE ROLE



**Safety
First**

Scope of CODE Role

- There are seven (7) components to the expertise and support role that CODE will provide to school boards throughout the project. They include:
 1. Health and Safety Team;
 2. Provincial Health and Safety Exemplary Practices;
 3. School Board Needs Assessment;
 4. Advisory Support;
 5. Training;
 6. Resources; and
 7. Materials and Communication.



**Safety
First**

Health and Safety Team

- A team of Health and Safety specialists with expertise in science and technological safety within school settings has been established. Members include:
 - Robert Emptage, Team Chair;
 - Connie Devlin, Standards and Legislation;
 - Dave Graves, Technological Education;
 - Bill Keith, Technological Education and Science;
 - Milan Sanader, Science; and
 - Pat Campbell, Training Development and Project Logistics.
- The CODE team has the capacity to service both English and French school boards.



**Safety
First**

Provincial Health and Safety Exemplary Practices

- CODE will develop a common set of provincial health and safety exemplary practices to be used in technological education facilities and science labs within schools. These practices will be developed from, but not limited to:
 - Existing health and safety resources developed by subject and professional associations;
 - Health and safety guiding principles and policy statements used by school boards; and
 - Leading health and safety standards of practice that are identified in the MOL school board inspections or Ministry operational review reports.



**Safety
First**

School Board Needs Assessment

- CODE will work with the Ministry to develop a needs assessment tool that requests baseline data from school boards.
- This tool will provide the Health and Safety Team with a snapshot of the requirements in each school board.



Safety
First

Advisory Support

- CODE will communicate the mandate of the health and safety team to all English and French-language school boards and offer to provide advice and support to individual school boards upon request.
- This support could include:
 - Assistance with the development or updating of individual board plans to ensure the essential components are adequately addressed;
 - Assistance with inspections of physical plants;
 - Participation in meetings with school board teams; and/or
 - Assistance with board-specific staff training.



**Safety
First**

Training

- Three professional development modules will be developed to support school and school board staff that work in and/or oversee technological education and science programs.
- Topics will be identified by the CODE Health and Safety Team in consultation with board representatives.
- Training modules will be delivered by CODE to school boards on/about April 30, June 30 and August 30.
- The delivery of professional development to school boards is to be completed no later than March 31, 2014.



Safety
First

Resources

- CODE will develop a menu of resources to support school boards with ongoing work. At a minimum, these include:
 - A reposition of Questions and Answers accessible for school boards through the CODE website;
 - Safety checklists for school boards, schools and individual science and technological education programs posted on the CODE website by June 30, 2013; and
 - A short list of safety experts, who are available province-wide to inspect technological education facilities and science labs at the request of a school board. This list will be available to school boards through the CODE website no later than March 31, 2013.



**Safety
First**

Materials and Communication

- CODE has established a consultation process to seek input and feedback from school boards, Ministry of Labour Regional Managers, and subject and professional associations.
 - Directors of Education for fifteen (15) school boards representative of education in Ontario have been asked to offer input and advice to the CODE Health and Safety Team as it works on identifying promising practices; and
 - Representatives of associations with a vested interest in supporting health and safety procedures and guidelines in schools were invited to participate in the identification of promising practices and topics for training modules.



**Safety
First**

Student Injury Prevention Initiative

CONSULTATION PROCESS



**Safety
First**

Advisory Committee

- CODE Health and Safety team members have invited seven (7) education and health and safety organizations to act as ambassadors and champions for the project. More specifically, this Advisory Group will:
 - Promote the project within their individual organizations and partner organizations;
 - Advise on issues impacting the deliverables of the project;
 - Share existing resources and best practices that are currently available to school boards.



Safety
First

Advisory Committee

- CODE has invited representatives from the following organizations to participate in this part of the consultation process:
 - College of Teachers;
 - Ontario Association of School Board Officials;
 - Ontario Council for Technology Education;
 - Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange;
 - Public Services Health and Safety Association;
 - School Boards' Co-operative Inc.;
 - Science Teachers' Association of Ontario; and
 - Workplace Safety and Prevention Services.



Safety
First

School Board Focus Group

- CODE Health and Safety team members will also consult with designees from up to fifteen (15) school boards representative of education in Ontario.
- These school boards will be asked to:
 - Share internal processes and procedures which document the management of health and safety practices; and
 - Share existing resources and best practices that may be referenced in the exemplary practices document.



Safety
First

School Board Focus Group

- Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board;
- Conseil scolaire public de district du Nord-Est de l'Ontario;
- Dufferin Peel District School Board;
- Durham District School Board;
- Greater Essex County District School Board;
- Halton Catholic District School Board;
- Halton District School Board;
- Hamilton Wentworth District School Board;
- Huron Perth Catholic District School Board;
- Lakehead District School Board;
- Ottawa Catholic District School Board;
- Toronto District School Board;
- Upper Grand District School Board;
- Waterloo Catholic District School Board; and
- Waterloo Region District School Board.



**Safety
First**

Reference Group

- CODE will invite a reference group of four (4) Directors of Education to provide them with advice on application of the work performed by the Health and Safety team.
- This group will also broker alignment with their colleagues at other school boards.
- Members of the group have not yet been confirmed.



**Safety
First**

Student Injury Prevention Initiative

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?



**Safety
First**

CODE Contacts

Gerry Townsend, Project Coordinator
Council for Ontario Directors of Education
Telephone: (905) 845-7003
Email: bgtown@rogers.com

Bob Emptage, Health and Safety Team Chair
Telephone: (705) 440-7196
Email: remptage@emptageandassociates.com