

IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Achieving Excellence, the government's renewed vision for education, includes a focus on equity which will ensure the best possible learning opportunities and supports for students who may be at risk of not succeeding including children and youth in care.

In September 2014, the Premier's office released a Ministry of Education mandate letter providing direction on closing the achievement gap for children and youth in care.

Since 2008, as part of the Student Success Strategy, the Ministry of Education (EDU) has partnered with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) and the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities on several initiatives to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in the care of, or receiving services from, Children's Aid Societies (CASs) in the province.

INITIATIVES:



JOINT PROTOCOL FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Representatives from CASs, school boards, and staff in EDU and MCYS have developed a template that details the scope of collaborative practices and processes to guide the development of local student achievement protocols.



DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING ON EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

The strategy for the province-wide collection and reporting of aggregate achievement data on Crown and society wards includes data sharing agreements between EDU and the CASs and Native Child and Family Services in Ontario. The Ministry of Education will generate aggregate reports on a variety of indicators.



INNOVATIVE PILOT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

EDU's pilot programs to improve educational outcomes are included as part of *Realizing Our Potential: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy: 2014-2019* (September 2014).



ADDRESSING SCHOOL STABILITY

Students in care often experience unstable residential placements and, as a consequence, unstable school situations which are a contributing factor to generally poor educational outcomes. In spring 2015, EDU will collect data on the frequency of and expenditures for transportation of students in 5 – 6 local boards and CASs who have moved out of their home school area and require transportation to provide stability of attendance at their home school.



CROWN WARD EDUCATION CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

Teams are comprised of partnerships among local school boards, CASs, postsecondary institutions and Employment Ontario service providers to support youth in and leaving care to complete secondary school and transition to postsecondary education, training or employment.

THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES (OACAS): GATEWAY TO SUCCESS: CYCLE THREE REPORT (APRIL 2014):

THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS OF CROWN WARDS ARE STILL SIGNIFICANTLY BEHIND THEIR PROVINCIAL PEERS

In 2012/13, **46%** of Crown wards ages 19 and 20 graduated from high school; a four percentage points increase over 2006-07 results. Though not directly comparable due to differences in methodologies, Ontario's high school graduation rate for 2012-13 was **83%**.

