



Waterloo Region District School Board

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December 18, 2023

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Lecce,

At its meeting on October 30, 2023, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), agreed to write to you to express support for the Toronto Youth Cabinet's recommendations to improve children and youth mental health across Ontario as recently was supported by the Rainy River District School Board through a letter dated October 24, 2023.

The Toronto Youth Cabinet's recommendations support the WRDSB's Strategic Direction to have students and staff experience positive well-being as part of a caring and inclusive community. The WRDSB has committed to supporting students and staff with their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health by providing them with the resources they need to support themselves, their peers and the community.

The WRDSB supports the Toronto Youth Cabinet's recommendations:

1. Mandatory Mental Health Literacy in the Curriculum.
2. Mental Health Days for students.
3. Additional mental health clinicians, and student support staff, such as mental health professionals, school psychologists, child & youth workers, social workers, nurses, guidance counsellors, and mental health crisis intervention workers.
4. Collection and reporting of data on mental health supports and services in schools.
5. School-based culturally appropriate mental health screening for all grades.

Minister Lecce, we respectfully request the Ministry of Education consider these recommendations to address child and youth mental health concerns for the WRDSB and other Ontario public school boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
Regional Chair, Region of Waterloo
Local Members of Provincial Parliament