

President's Message

December 11, 2023

Advice for Administrators on Supervision Schedules

Schools are extremely busy entities, and the role of the principal and vice-principal is to be available to handle an abundance of issues throughout the day to ensure the overall safety for students and all who are present in their building. As such, administrators must be available to address issues throughout their school site at any given time. Part of the administrator's role is informal supervision (such as walkthroughs). The difficulty with a principal or vice-principal being on the formal supervision schedule is that they would be unable to respond to emergencies if they are confined to one area. Legislatively, administrators are responsible for the safety of the entire school. They need the flexibility to be available at any time and not to be part of a formal supervision schedule.

Should you be directed to place yourself on the formal supervision/duty schedule, please inform your local OPC leaders. As well, ensure you put in writing to your supervisory officer any concerns you have with being on the formal schedule and ask for clear guidance on how you are going to deal with other issues that may arise during that time. This is a step that should be repeated and documented, as concerns continue to be in the forefront. As always, please call the PST Intake line should you require assistance.

EDI Update

Thank you to everyone who completed the [2023 Member Demographic Survey](#). The information collected will be analysed and reviewed by an external consultant over the next few months to produce a report. This data will inform our next steps as we continue to work toward supporting human rights and dismantling systemic oppression. The previous report from 2020 is available [on our website](#), and many aspects of the recommendations are visible in the work we are doing. Given the daily challenges of staff shortages and general workload, we recognize that completing the survey during the open period may have been a challenge. To maximize the number of responses, **we will leave the survey open until the beginning of January**. If you have not completed it yet, we hope you can find a few minutes over the holidays to do so.

In the [EDI Blog](#), you can read more about the conversation with Karen Timm (DDSB) on supporting neurodivergence in education and for educators.

Quote to Ponder

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul." – Joseph Addison

Media

- [Ford promised to fix broken Autism system – wait lists tell different story](#)

- [Comprehensive epilepsy policy coming to schools](#)
- [Global high school test scores show worrying decline](#)
- [PISA tests – math and reading scores drop for Canadian students](#)
- [Federal government increases income requirement for foreign students](#)
- [Covid and Flu set to peak over holiday season](#)
- [School board looking at later starts for secondary schools](#)
- [School boards not consulted on move of Science Centre](#)

Queen's Park

There were questions in the House last week about funding for [post-secondary institutions](#), [addressing labour shortages in the skilled trades](#), [wait lists for child care](#) and [French language education](#).

Three members of the NDP Caucus have introduced Bill 140, [Improving Air Quality for our Children Act](#), which would require schools and child care providers to install carbon dioxide monitors in classrooms, congregate spaces, portables, gymnasiums, change rooms, auditoriums, cafeterias, music rooms, libraries, staff rooms and main offices. The bill has received First Reading.

The House is now in recess until February 20, 2024.