

FAX AGENDA

ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**
ASSOCIATION

June 11, 2003

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Ministry of Education

Early Math/Reading Strategy

OECTA has always supported the role of curriculum leaders in elementary schools. In addition, OECTA has always supported new curriculum initiatives designed to enhance student learning when accompanied by appropriate training and adequate support.

However, OECTA has serious concerns regarding the recent Ministry of Education Early Math/Reading Strategy training sessions scheduled for June 2003 for two reasons:

1. It is not clear whether these training sessions are PLP free.
2. The new Ministry policy involves creating a new job classification, 'lead teacher' positions that have collective bargaining implications.

In some jurisdictions, OECTA members are being asked or directed to sign up for ministry training and for 'lead teacher' roles. Others may have already done so.

In light of these concerns, OECTA advises:

1. Members should not

volunteer to participate in the Ministry sponsored training of the Early Reading/Math Strategies either at the board or local school level unless it is PLP free and not volunteer to become a 'lead teacher' until a selection process has been established jointly by OECTA and the board

2 Members who are directed to attend ministry sessions or to become lead teachers should contact their unit president

3 Members should not submit their names for PLP purposes if directed to attend the training session that is held during the regular school day.

4 All advertisements or postings that request applicants for these roles

must be in line with OECTA's posting and selection provisions.

5 Local collective bargaining teams should work to ensure that appropriate provisions are contained in collective agreements to provide protections for teachers who assume these roles

6 Roles of the Early Reading and Early Math Lead Teacher(s) should be limited to:

- Participating in training focused on effective teaching of mathematics and reading
- Incorporating these strategies in the classroom program, where appropriate, and
- Sharing these strategies with colleagues, when appropriate.