



March 27, 2012

Ref: 156545

To all Superintendents:

As you are aware, the *Education Improvement Act* (the Act) became law on March 17, 2012. The new Act brings an end to the teachers' strike, imposes a cooling off period, makes provision for a mediator and extends the term of the recently expired collective agreement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, your district administrative teams and your principals for your efforts over what has been a difficult period. It will take time to fully normalize your operations, and I would encourage you to continue to use tact and good judgement as you fully restore services to students.

Few issues received more attention during the period of the dispute than report cards. On January 30, 2012, during the strike, I wrote you and advised that each district explain to parents the circumstances that prevented schools from issuing report cards in the normal manner. In many cases, teachers were conscientiously informing parents of student progress in any event. Unfortunately, we also know of situations where parents were not informed and have been surprised by the lack of progress, and even failure, of students in courses and grades.

Section 4 (2) and (3) of the *School Act* regulation outlines the duties of teachers regarding student reporting. With the strike ended, these provisions are in force. Among other requirements, three formal report cards for each student are required each year. The requirement to provide a second term and final report card can now be met.

Please ensure that report cards are issued as soon as possible and in the usual manner. This may require that you vary scheduled reporting dates. It is imperative that each parent receives a full reporting on cumulative student achievement levels so that each student can be supported in successful completion of courses and grades. Parents still have the opportunity to intervene in support of children who are struggling with their level of achievement if reports are made available in a timely manner.

Thank you for your continued dedication in support of students.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Gorman". The signature is written over a horizontal line and has a wavy, cursive style.

James Gorman
Deputy Minister