

**VIA EMAIL**  
Our Ref: 114448

To: District Superintendents

The Ministry of Education is pleased to launch the Healthy Schools Network. As we all know, many health-related behaviours can negatively affect a student's ability to learn. When treatable and preventable health problems are addressed, the ability of students to learn to their full potential is realized. A comprehensive approach to education recognizes that successful young people are knowledgeable and emotionally and physically healthy. British Columbia's Healthy Schools Network will enhance the ability of schools to address these concerns.

The Healthy Schools Network is a voluntary organization of public and independent schools whose common goal is to address health promotion through a comprehensive approach. The Healthy Schools Network will be a component of the Network of Performance Based Schools, whose members are actively working with the BC Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Social Responsibility Performance Standards.

The Ministry hopes to have 20 to 50 schools join the Healthy School component of the Network this school year. Participating schools commit to developing a healthy school team, piloting the school health assessment tool, developing a healthy school goal and corresponding strategies, addressing improvement in at least one of the identified areas of priority in the pilot year (i.e., physical activity, healthy eating, tobacco reduction, school connectedness) and provide leadership to work with the province in the development of a Healthy Schools Performance Standard.

Member schools in the 2006/07 pilot will receive \$1,000 for participating in the Network. Schools providing support to the province in the development of the performance standard will receive an additional \$1,000, and two or three meetings will occur this school year for orientation and working sessions.

Once the provincial standard is developed, eligibility for a Provincial Healthy Schools designation will provide an additional \$500 annually for schools meeting and maintaining the provincial standard (effective spring 2008).

Please find attached a detailed outline of this new and exciting initiative for distribution to your school principals.

Emery Dosedall, EdD  
Deputy Minister