

Ministry Mandated Professional Activity Day  
Friday, April 30, 2010  
All Upper Grand District School Board Schools

**Background**

To achieve the goals of improving achievement of students with special needs and closing the gaps in student achievement, the Ministry of Education has once again approved two professional activity days for this school year. The Upper Grand District School Board established that the two professional activity days dedicated to these goals will occur this school year on September 28, 2009 and April 30, 2010.

On Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010, all elementary and secondary schools in the Upper Grand District School Board will be closed to students to allow teachers to participate in professional activities that are designed to improve teachers' skills and knowledge in a range of instructional and assessment strategies that relate to the two areas of special education and closing the gaps in student achievement. Focus on these two areas will promote an inclusive and equitable approach to instruction for all students.

**Elementary and Secondary School Program**

In both elementary and secondary schools, staffs will be introduced to the key concepts in two Ministry of Education documents:

1) "Shared Services - A Guide to Preventing and Resolving Conflicts Regarding Programs and Services for Students with Special Education Needs"

This document serves as a resource to support educators, parents and students working together to prevent or address concerns as early as possible.

2) "Learning For All K - 12"

This resource document provides research based assessment and instructional approaches to support learning for all students K - 12.

In elementary schools, additional professional activities will focus on key literacy strategies that promote improved student achievement. Staff will reflect on the progress made toward goals in the School Improvement Plan and will plan for the final Teaching Learning Cycle of the year.

In secondary schools, staff will work in subject teams to apply the key concepts from "Learning For All" to specific departments and subject areas.