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Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
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August 8, 2013

Marion Leifso  
Secretary  
Bruce County District Women's Institute

Dear Marion Leifso,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Bruce County District Women's Institute requesting that the Ministry of Education develop a Lifestyle program to teach students cooking skills, human nutrition, and other wellness practices. I am pleased to respond.

Our government is committed to maintaining the best possible education for all students so that they have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. The ministry recognizes the value of this type of learning for the success of all students. The knowledge and skills mentioned in your letter are important for all students and the ministry ensures that this learning is integrated across many subjects and grades so that all students can learn about nutrition, wellness, and other skills that will be of value in future careers and in life.

As you know, some of this learning can be found in Family Studies courses which are included in the secondary Social Sciences and Humanities curriculum. You will be pleased to know that on June 6, 2013, the revised *Social Sciences and Humanities, Grades 9-12* curriculum policy document was released and posted on the Ministry of Education's website. Successful completion of courses in Social Sciences and Humanities will satisfy the Group 1 compulsory credit requirement, in addition to optional credit requirements, for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). School boards will make local decisions about their ability to implement all or part of this curriculum policy document in fall 2013. Mandatory implementation will begin in September 2014. Training will also be provided to teachers to support implementation. You may view all curriculum policy documents on the Ministry of Education's website at <[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum)>.

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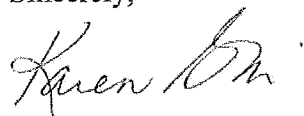
As you may be aware, health and nutrition is addressed in various subject areas, in addition to the Social Sciences and Humanities curriculum, beginning in the elementary school years. For example, healthy eating is a topic in the Healthy Living strand of the Health and Physical Education curriculum from Grades 1 to 12. The healthy eating component in the elementary curriculum equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy eating choices. In secondary school students must also complete one health and physical education course to meet the compulsory credit requirements of the OSSD, and may also complete an additional health and physical education credit to meet a second compulsory credit requirement, in addition to fulfilling optional credit requirements. Hospitality and tourism courses are included in the Technological Education curriculum for Grades 10 to 12. In hospitality and tourism courses, students develop food preparation and presentation skills and are provided with hands-on opportunities to learn about various sectors of the hospitality and tourism field. Courses in Technological Education satisfy the Group 3 compulsory credit requirement for the OSSD, in addition to meeting optional credit requirements.

In addition, students can learn about healthy eating and nutrition across the school environment. For information about Healthy Schools, including the new School Food and Beverage policy, please visit the m's website at <[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/healthyschools.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/healthyschools.html)>.

At this time, the Ministry of Education is not planning to review the number or type of compulsory credits needed to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or to add a Lifestyle program to Ontario education requirements.

Thank you again for your letter. I trust that you will find this information helpful.

Sincerely,



Karen Gill  
Director  
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch