

June 6, 2017

Dear Employment Ontario service provider:

I am writing to let you know about some changes in Ontario's student financial assistance program.

As you may have seen in the [2017 Budget](#), the Ontario government is undertaking one of the largest transformations of student financial assistance in North America, making postsecondary education more accessible and affordable for hundreds of thousands of students. The new Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will allow more students to get a postsecondary education, make it easier to apply, and provide financial support to those who need it most.

Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, the new Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will be available to all eligible, full-time, university and college students—including dependent students, mature single students, married students, and students with children.

The new OSAP is providing students with more generous financial support than ever before, including free tuition for hundreds of thousands of low and middle-income students. Students with children may be eligible to receive additional OSAP funding for child care costs, and many students from higher-income families will also benefit from more generous grants and loans.

Students who plan to study part-time can also apply for financial assistance through the OSAP Application for Part-Time Students.

Please note: students must be enrolled in a school and program that is approved for OSAP in order to receive financial aid. Students or service providers can [find out whether a school is OSAP-approved](#) online.

Approved programs must be offered at the postsecondary level; be at least 12 weeks in duration; and lead to a degree, diploma or certificate upon successful completion. If clients are not sure if a program is approved for OSAP, they can [contact their school's financial aid office to find out more](#).

### **Promoting OSAP to Employment Ontario clients**

I would like to ask for your assistance to spread the word about the changes to OSAP by:

- Visiting and directing clients to [Ontario.ca/osap](http://Ontario.ca/osap) to learn more about postsecondary financial assistance options for OSAP-approved programs and how to apply.
- Sharing informational material about OSAP. Visit [Ontario.ca/OSAPpartners](http://Ontario.ca/OSAPpartners) to download high-resolution versions of posters, postcards, brochures, and shareable graphics, as well as the frequently asked questions and other information. High-quality print versions

of some of these materials are also available for ordering for free through [ServiceOntario Publications](#). To find English OSAP materials on this website, please search for “OSAP.” French materials can be found by searching for “RAFEO.”

If you have any questions about the changes to OSAP, please visit [ontario.ca/osap](http://ontario.ca/osap), or send an email to [OSAP.Transformation@ontario.ca](mailto:OSAP.Transformation@ontario.ca).

With these changes to OSAP, more Ontarians may be able to get funding for additional education that they need to succeed. We hope you will share this information with your clients.

On behalf of the ministry, thank you for your dedication to helping Ontarians get and keep jobs, access training and education, and promote access to opportunities. With your help, we can build a highly-skilled workforce for the economy of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Shelley Unterlander  
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD)

Enclosure

CC: Sheldon Levy, Deputy Minister, MAESD  
David Carter-Whitney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Education Division,  
MAESD  
Ian Ross, Director, Communications Branch, MAESD