



# INDEPENDENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOL FORUM

A FORUM FOR CANADIAN ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

August 2021

**To: Ms. Christine Riedel (Coordinator, Private Schools and International Education Unit)**

Recently, a particular question arose amongst our members with respect to teachers facilitating courses in online schools. In particular, are there any Ministry guidelines that pertain to the physical location of a teacher who is assigned the role of teacher for an online school in a MOE-inspected private school? In other words, could a teacher who is located outside of Canada teach Ontario credit courses.

## **Response**

In an inspected private school, the principal is responsible for ensuring that the Ontario curriculum is delivered according to Ministry requirements.

As per the *Private Schools Policy and Procedures Manual, 2013*, the Ministry's inspection of an online school is based on a review of posted online content, a review of asynchronous conferencing between teachers and students, interviews with the principal and other school staff, visits to synchronous online sessions and an examination of school documents and records, and of students' work. Multiple visits to the online course space may be necessary, including individual and group student conferences in the online environment. During the inspection, teachers should be available for interviews with the inspector online.

There are no requirements for online teachers to be onsite at the Ontario private school during the inspection. The manual does state that for online school inspections, a school visit and a meeting with the principal will be necessary in order to demonstrate courseware and/or review school records. However, since the pandemic started, private school inspections have been taking place virtually and there have not been any on site school visits.

The ministry does not inspect or approve items such as the condition of premises, health and safety practices or matters related to staffing. In addition, there are no requirements for teachers employed at private schools to be members of the Ontario College of Teachers. You may wish to seek your own legal advice regarding contractual matters for staff.

Thank you,

Christine

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