

**Ministry of Education**

Mowat Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Édifice Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



November, 2017

Dear high school principals,

As you may know, Ontario continues with the single largest modernization of the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) in its history. Changes to OSAP have made college and university more affordable for students from low and middle income families through more generous grants and loans. Because of the work of guidance counsellors and others supporting students, applications to OSAP were up more than 16% compared to last year. One-third of all full-time students attending college or university this fall received free tuition thanks to OSAP.

Again this year, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) is creating a suite of resources for high school guidance counsellors in Ontario — an OSAP Guidance Counsellor Kit. Kits will be distributed in the coming weeks and will include a variety of materials to help guidance counsellors inform students about the new OSAP and what they should expect when applying for the 2018–19 academic year.

The materials will be provided to high schools in the coming weeks and will include printed posters, brochures, and postcards. Additional materials can also be ordered online through [Service Ontario](#)

**New this year**

The OSAP application for the 2018-19 school year opened on November 8, 2017. For the first time, the application is integrated with the application for college or university. This means students can apply for OSAP directly after applying for college or university.

Shortly after applying, students will be able to visit their OSAP account to see an estimate of the aid they could receive with OSAP along with the cost summary of the schools they have applied to. The goal is to provide students with a snapshot of the real costs of going to college or university to help with planning their future.

Should you require materials or information before the package arrives, please visit the OSAP partners' portal at [ontario.ca/osappartners](http://ontario.ca/osappartners). Inquiries can be directed to the MAESD Communications Branch through Stephanie Rullo at [stephanie.rullo@ontario.ca](mailto:stephanie.rullo@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Cathy Montreuil  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Student Achievement Division