



## SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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### PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** Thursday, April 22, 2004  
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#### **Superior-Greenstone DSB Announces Two New Literacy Initiatives**

**MARATHON**, Ontario – At the regular meeting of the Superior Greenstone District School Board held in Nipigon Red Rock District High School on Friday, April 16, 2004 the trustees approved two new exciting initiatives aimed at improving the literacy skills of elementary and secondary students.

The board was unanimous in its support for the expansion of Early Intervention Pilot to all elementary schools in the board. The program focuses on intervention for the neediest students demonstrating gaps in literacy skills to ensure that they are readers by grade three. Patti Pella, Superintendent of Education explained that this program involves a three-tier approach with literacy teachers offering balanced literary supports in the regular classroom, support from the Early Intervention Teacher when a student has not progressed as expected and finally support from the Special Education resources when further assessment is required. Special training will occur in order to create a school team to support students. Training, data tracking and analysis will be part of the Lead Teacher role for the Intervention/Literacy program.

John Robart, Assistant to the Superintendent of Education outlined for trustees the compelling data from the 2003 Grade 10 Literacy Test and encouraged a proactive approach with a program targeted to Level One students from grades 7 to 10 at risk of passing the test. This program focuses on several key aspects of the curriculum including writing, reading comprehension and test taking strategies and would be offered before school / after school and/or at lunch hour.

Trustees are committed to providing the cornerstones for student improvement and success.