

BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS

Be a champion for students, their future depends on it.

BuildingBetterSchools.ca



Quality Public Education for All Ontario Students

Ontario has one of the best public education systems in the world, providing high-quality education for every student regardless of where they live in the province. Last year, the Conservative government made significant funding cuts to public education.

When adjusted for inflation, per-student funding for 2019-20 was three per cent lower than the previous year. These cuts have come at a time when student needs have increased.

Elementary educators are concerned about the impacts we are seeing in our classrooms.

The government must prioritize students and our schools. It's time to reverse funding cuts and invest in public education.



What you can do:

Stand with educators as we advocate for adequate supports for students with special needs, a violence prevention strategy that gives students access to supports and professionals and maintaining a Kindergarten program that gives every student the best start. Tell the government to reverse the cuts to public education.

Kindergarten Works



Extensive research has shown that Ontario's current Kindergarten model, which includes a full-time certified teacher and a designated early childhood educator (DECE), works best for students. It lays the foundation for all of their learning going forward and provides lasting benefits for children's reading, writing, numeracy, self-regulation and social skills.

Created by education experts and based on international research, Kindergarten makes Ontario a global leader in early childhood education.

The government has not committed to continuing the current model of full-day Kindergarten beyond the 2019-20 school year. This means that it may be considering changes as a way to make further cuts to public education. Parents and educators are extremely concerned about cuts to a program that has proven to be so effective for children.

What you can do:

Advocate for maintaining the current model for Kindergarten, which includes a full-time certified teacher and a DECE. The teacher and DECE each play a different and important role in children's learning; together, they ensure that students get the great start they need.

Addressing Violence in Our Schools

Violence in our schools is a symptom of broader issues facing the education system; including: larger classes, a lack of resources and student supports and fewer staff to meet the varied needs of students.

Almost 80 per cent of public elementary teachers report that violent incidents in schools are increasing. Cuts to public education will only increase these incidents.

Schools need more guidance counsellors, child and youth workers, mental health supports and timely assessments for students who need them. The only way to ensure that our schools are safe and healthy learning environments is to invest in the resources and supports students and educators need.



What you can do:

Call on the government to reduce class sizes and provide adequate resources, services and supports for all students. Every student deserves a chance to succeed, and every classroom should be a safe and healthy learning environment.

Support for Students with Special Needs



Over the last few decades, funding for special education programs and services has consistently failed to keep up with actual student need.

The funding model for special education programs is based on a predictive model rather than student needs. Funding is disconnected from what is happening in elementary classrooms and the needs of students in our schools.

All students can benefit from Ontario's inclusive approach to public education, provided that they have access to needed supports, including trained professionals in schools.

What you can do:

Insist that the government provide all students with the services and support. Special education funding needs to be substantially increased and should be based on actual needs. Funding should be allocated to hire additional educational assistants, behavioural counsellors, psychologists, and speech and language pathologists.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario represents 83,000 teachers, occasional teachers, designated early childhood educators and education professionals working in Ontario's public elementary schools. Elementary educators are committed to strengthening our public education system to help ensure a healthy and vibrant society. We want all students in Ontario to be successful learners in safe and nurturing environments.



Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
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