



# **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

INVESTING  
IN ONTARIO



## PREAMBLE

Public education is the key to Ontario's future. We must continue to equip our students with the knowledge, skills and sense of community that will make our province prosperous and dynamic.

OSSTF/FEESO believes that the publicly-funded education system should recognize the following principles:

- Universality—access for all;
- Comprehensiveness—opportunity for all;
- Proficiency—achievement for all, and
- Accountability—value for all.

Our goal is to provide students with the ability and confidence to meet the new challenges of the 21st century. OSSTF/FEESO members continue to dedicate their time and energy to make this happen. Our work in public education creates public value. By investing in our students, we are investing in Ontario's future.

# EDUCATION FUNDING AT ALL LEVELS

## AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

- Enhance funding to all levels of education, including elementary, secondary and post-secondary, to eliminate financial barriers for ALL students.
- Redesign the funding formula so that it is based on student needs.
- Provide funding that allows schools to offer a full range of services and programs, especially for schools in smaller communities.
- Invest in technologies that support educators and students in order to support teaching and learning.
- Provide equitable access to professional student services that enhance classroom learning.
- Continue to fund the Early Learning Program for junior and senior Kindergarten.

# SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY HUBS

## THE PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES

- Develop innovative ways to utilize space in lower enrollment schools as community space, especially in smaller and rural communities.
- Encourage the growth of schools as community hubs delivering a wide variety of educational, health, child care and social services.
- Provide funding to allow greater community no-fee access to school facilities such as pools, gyms, libraries and meeting spaces.
- Recognize the impact of school closures in small and rural communities, especially on the additional amount of time that students need to travel to schools.

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# BROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

## SUPPORTING STUDENT GROWTH

- Provide all students across Ontario with access to an up-to-date curriculum that is broad and contemporary to meet the challenges of the 21st century.
- Focus on continuous, authentic assessment and evaluation by an education professional to measure students' genuine progress using professional judgment.
- Focus testing to help students reach their learning potential by identifying their strengths and areas of need, not on the ranking of students, schools and boards.
- Give adults greater access to high school diploma courses, job retraining and language proficiency programs.
- Inspire students to be good citizens, critical thinkers, and life-long learners.
- Recognize that students learn in many ways and need access to a variety of programs that can include academics, technical training, co-op and entrepreneurship programs.

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# SAFER AND HEALTHIER SCHOOLS

## IMPROVING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Provide enough caring adults in our schools to maintain a safe, inclusive and clean environment for student learning and success.
- Enhance training and programs to prevent and better respond to incidents of bullying and harassment in any form.
- Continue to fund initiatives for students and education workers that support the understanding of mental health and wellness.
- Equip schools with proper resources to respond to immediate health needs.

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# BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

## MEETING ALL STUDENT NEEDS IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Provide access to professional services to support student health and well-being that go beyond their learning in the classroom.
- Ensure consistent, dedicated funding for all post-secondary institutions so that student services will be maintained year over year.
- Link increases in post-secondary enrollment to increases in faculty and support staff positions.
- Reduce tuition fees and other costs to students to make post-secondary education more accessible.

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# LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

## TWO SECULAR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEMS— ONE IN ENGLISH AND ONE IN FRENCH

- Create two secular public education systems—one in English and one in French.
- Recognize the current cultural diversity in Ontario.
- Reinvest the savings from the benefits of eliminating the duplication of public education services that currently exists back into the public education system.

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# ABOUT OSSTF/FEESO

OSSTF/FEESO, founded in 1919, has 60,000 members across Ontario. They include public high school teachers, occasional teachers, educational assistants, continuing education teachers and instructors, early childhood educators, psychologists, secretaries, speech-language pathologists, social workers, plant support personnel, university support staff, and many others in education.

OSSTF/FEESO is an independent, socially active union that promotes and advances the cause of public education and the rights of students, teachers and educational workers. OSSTF/FEESO also works to build strong public services, preserve academic freedom, prevent the privatization and commercialization of our educational institutions, ensure that students receive an education free of bias and discrimination and provide an equitable opportunity for all students to succeed in a strong, well-funded public education system.

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*Protecting and Enhancing Public Education*  
*Protéger et faire avancer l'éducation publique*

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