



AN OPEN LETTER TO ONTARIO PARENTS

We write as parents, educators, labour leaders, and taxpayers who are dedicated to protecting and enhancing publicly-funded education.

Ontario has built one of the best education systems in the world. It has seen significant improvements resulting in better outcomes for our students and province.

On March 15, 2019, the Minister of Education Lisa Thompson, unleashed what Doug Ford and his government are calling their *New Vision for Education*.

Their *Plan* puts all the advancements we have made at risk.

Their *Plan* is a failure to support and meet the needs of the students of Ontario. It is a decisive move to undervalue our children, their futures and our economic well-being.

Their *Plan* will increase class sizes, directly limiting the time teachers, educators and support staff have to work with your child.

Their *Plan* will force your child to take a minimum of four online courses, further reducing the time your child has to engage with educators and peers.

From Full-Day Kindergarten to Grade 12, education is an investment that pays significant dividends down the road with better jobs, higher incomes and a healthier province.

The Ford government's proposed cuts to school boards add an increased burden on the publicly-funded education system. This means specialized programs like those leading to trades, the arts, special education and other important programs (i.e. International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, gifted, and outdoor education) will be at risk of cancellation.

The cuts announced by the Ford government will mean less for every child in Ontario. They will result in:

- Less time for teachers to spend in and out of class supporting students who require extra help and guidance
- Fewer courses available for students to choose from as they move through the system
- Reduced access to guidance counsellors, educational assistants, therapists, psychologists, social workers, early childhood educators, and other important members of the education team
- Fewer professionals in schools available to volunteer their time for extra-curricular programs, clubs, and teams
- Fewer professionals available to support students with special needs

True fiscal responsibility means investing in educating our students. True fiscal responsibility means ensuring our education system is able to provide all students the opportunity to find success. It means investing in, not cutting from, public education funding.

We are here for students. We know you are too.

Visit our website at www.hereforstudents.ca. While there, take a moment to send a message to your MPP—tell them that you do not support increases to class size and a reduction in programs.

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