



PSSP Halton - OSSTF District 20

Media Release

For Immediate Release: Tuesday April 30, 2019

HDSB Cuts Professional Student Services

Today, the Halton District School Board issued layoff notices to Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP). The elimination of 6.5 positions represents a 5.5% reduction in front line, direct service to our most vulnerable children.

At a time when student need and pupil enrolment are increasing, this reduction in service levels will mean that children lose support, and wait longer for psychoeducational and speech and language assessments. Fewer students will have access to Social Worker and Child and Youth Counsellor support in their schools, leaving our neediest students without help.

Early identification and intervention are critical to ensuring student success. These service cuts are short sighted, and will be detrimental and disruptive to the education of students diagnosed or struggling with learning disabilities, autism, mental health illness, behavioural challenges, poor attendance, poverty, and other complex needs.

The long term financial and social cost will outweigh any short-term financial savings. The current Provincial Government must act to ensure that our education system is fully funded so that services to students can be maintained.

PSSP, OSSTF District 20 represents Professional Student Services Personnel working at the Halton District School Board. Membership includes ABA Facilitators, Child and Youth Counsellors, Psychoeducational Consultants, Social Workers, and Speech Language Pathologists.

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