

MEDIA RELEASE

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HWDSB will have almost 200 fewer high school teachers due to larger class sizes

(Hamilton) The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board will lose 198 high school teachers over the next four years as a result of larger class sizes, according to report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

[Behind the Numbers](#) recently released an interactive map based on this report that outlines the impact these changes will have across the province, allowing users to view the loss of teachers predicted for individual school boards. Viewers can see that some Ontario school boards will lose upwards of hundreds of high school teachers.

“These numbers paint a pretty grim picture for our schools.” says Daryl Jerome, President of the Teachers’/Occasional Teachers’ Bargaining Unit of OSSTF District 21. “Since the number of students will remain unchanged, a loss of this many teachers will absolutely result in ballooning class sizes and a reduction in course options for students. There is no way around it.”

While the CCPA report focuses on the effects education cuts will have on teachers, the ramifications reach beyond these numbers. Education workers across the system, such as support staff, social workers, secretaries, psychologists and other educational personnel, will also be impacted. The Ford government cuts to education serve only to reduce the resources and supports available to students in the classroom.

With Ontario’s Financial Accountability Office (FAO) forecasting that Doug Ford’s cuts to education will result in over 10,000 fewer teachers in schools by 2023-24, there is a significant need for Ontarians to advocate for students and their learning environments. Learn more about the issues and take action to support students at www.hereforstudents.ca.

OSSTF District 21 represents public secondary teachers and public and Catholic support staff in Hamilton-Wentworth. We are comprised of 5 bargaining units and represent approximately 2000 of the following educational workers: teachers, occasional teachers, adult continuing education teachers, office administrators, computer technicians, social workers, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, ESL instructors, and child and youth workers.

Link to interactive map: <http://behindthenumbers.ca/2019/10/30/board-by-board-impact-larger-class-sizes/>

Contact:

Daryl Jerome, President
Teachers’/Occasional Teachers’ Bargaining Unit OSSTF District 21 (Hamilton-Wentworth)
905-574-8285