



## BACKGROUND INCREASING STUDENT-CENTRED SUPPORTS AND SERVICES



Permanent, predictable, and meaningful funding is of paramount importance to Ontario Public schools and Ontario students. Previous cuts to services, staff, and facilities have left the system scrambling to provide education with fewer resources, fewer staff, and fewer opportunities for all.

### **Permanent Predictable Funding and Staffing**

- Every dollar invested in education generates \$1.30 in economic benefit for the province (Reference: [The Economic Case for Investing in Education](#)—Conference Board of Canada).
- Stable funding strengthens our education system, creating better outcomes for students which translates into higher graduation rates.
- More graduates translates into long-term mental and economic health for communities/society.
- Implement a formal education worker/support staff to student ratio.
- Move away from enrollment-based funding, which doesn't address the needs of students and is not equitable.

### **Culturally Relevant Supports and Training**

- The [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action](#), particularly action 62 to 65 must be actioned and funded.
- Increase training, recruitment, and hiring of sovereignty seeking, Black, racialized teachers and education workers.
- Board staff, teachers, and education workers must receive face-to-face training on the harmful effects of colonialism.
- Courses must reflect all voices and cultures.

### **Increase Mental Health Supports**

- Seamless transition between school and community mental health supports and services.
- Culturally responsive counsellors and services to meet the individual needs of students.
- With a specialized support team in place, teachers and education workers will have the ability to focus on academics, social success rather than trauma and behaviour.

### **Supports and Opportunities for Newcomers**

- School as a community hub with the purpose of supporting students, families, and society.
- Evaluate curriculum, learning materials, assessment, and evaluation methods to make certain that each culture is recognized, respected, and honoured by dismantling all colonial structures.
- Encourage students to become teachers and education workers and give them the financial supports to apply to post-secondary institutions.