

THE EDUCATION TEAM



Trades People
TEACHERS
Workers
TEACHERS
Workers
TEACHERS
Support Personnel
OFFICE
Support Personnel
Custodians

EDUCATION WATCH

03 | OCT 2012

BACKGROUND

Ontario's dedicated education workers make our publicly funded education system one of the best in the world.

OSSTF/FEESO represents over 60,000 education workers in Ontario's publicly funded elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools and institutions. The service and resources that all members of the education team provide need to be made available to students. When our students are successful, they help build a positive social and economic future for our province.

THE EDUCATION TEAM

Publicly funded education in Ontario relies on a comprehensive team of education workers. They include:

- Custodians and Tradespeople
- Early Childhood Educators
- Educational Assistants
- Educational Support Personnel
- Instructors
- Office and Clerical Staff
- Professional Student Services Personnel
- Teachers
- Technicians

CUSTODIANS AND TRADESPEOPLE

Schools and education worksites rely on the custodial and trades staff to maintain a clean, healthy and safe environment for students, staff and the community.

In order to achieve this, sufficient custodial and trades staff need to be available and must have the necessary resources to maintain any education facility.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) work in partnership with kindergarten teachers to deliver a high quality play-based program ensuring that our youngest students successfully begin their educational journey.

ECEs require time to work with their teacher partners to develop individualized programming and curricular support for young students, and to participate in professional learning opportunities.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS

Students who require additional support and those with special needs rely on Educational Assistants. These professionals work with classroom teachers and student success teams to provide ongoing and specialized support to those students who need it.

There are fewer educational assistants available in our publicly funded schools as they have recently been the first to be cut from school board budgets. Parents see one-on-one support with students with special needs and learning disabilities as a high priority. This can only be accomplished when there are enough qualified educational assistants in our schools.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Support for students and student learning extends beyond the classroom. A wide range of support personnel enable our education system to function effectively.

These skilled professionals, including clerks, learning analysts and coordinators, work behind the scenes enhancing the education system supporting student learning and success. Reductions in these positions often result in the loss of important programming for students, and further erosion of the education system as a whole.

INSTRUCTORS

Instructors work in a variety of environments beyond the regular day school system.

They provide educational opportunities to adult learners who want to develop new skills and improve their employment opportunities. In addition, English-as-a-second-language instructors assist newcomers to Ontario with language and communications skills as they seek employment, housing, and educational opportunities.

Funding for these programs has been cut significantly by all levels of government, resulting in reduced access to educational opportunities to those people who need it the most during a time of economic and technological change in our country.

OFFICE AND CLERICAL STAFF

Most often, the first point of contact in a school is an office or clerical staff member. They are the front line education workers who maintain and enhance the day to day operation of our educational institutions.

Office and clerical staff have been told to do more with less time and fewer resources. Increased demand in information collection and higher levels of data accountability has put a strain on office and clerical staff capacity.

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SERVICES PERSONNEL

A range of highly specialized services are available in our schools. They are provided by professionals that help students both inside and outside of the regular classroom environment.

These professionals, who include social workers, psychologists and speech language pathologists, offer direct support to students and consultation and support to their teachers. They are often the link to specialized services in the community that students may need.

Reductions to these professional services have been threatened as the educational sector relies more on outside agencies.

TEACHERS

Teachers work with all members of the education team to ensure that students are successful in their education experience. While teachers and occasional teachers deliver the curriculum and evaluate student progress, they rely heavily upon those on the education team to support student achievement and to help those students who need additional assistance.

TECHNICIANS

With many new technological tools in education available to education workers, the reliance on technicians to maintain and enhance these resources becomes more important. For example, Library and Information Technicians assist in the acquisition of resources for students and staff, help students to find information for their learning, and support students in the use of information technologies.

Having readily available, properly trained, technicians who understand the dynamics of the education system, and who have an intricate knowledge of how children learn will ensure that 21st century learning opportunities are provided to our students.

CONCLUSION

There are many types of education workers that make the publicly funded education system in Ontario function effectively at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels. All of these workers play a vital role in making Ontario's education system one of the most desirable in the world.

OSSTF/FEESO RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sustained, long term funding to all aspects of the education team so that publicly funded education in Ontario continues to function effectively for our students
- Policies and practices that reflect the important work that all members of the education team do to ensure high levels of student success
- Enhance services and support to all students and workers in publicly funded education in Ontario both in the classroom and outside the classroom
- Enhance funding and services to publicly funded education programs outside of the regular school system

For more information please call
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