

Election Platform Priorities 2024-2025



VOTE

**TO FIX PUBLIC
EDUCATION**

IT'S TIME TO



PREAMBLE

From kindergarten to post-secondary, Ontario's publicly funded education system has been shortchanged for years. The result has been larger classes, fewer supports for students, and a growing shortage of teachers and education workers at every level.

ONTARIO DESERVES BETTER.

In the next provincial election, OSSTF/FEESO is calling on every person in Ontario to vote to fix public education and to elect a government that will re-invest in students, re-invest in schools, and re-invest in public education.

1.

Invest in publicly funded education and the economic future of Ontario

Re-investing in a robust publicly funded education system in Ontario will produce thriving students, thriving schools, thriving communities, and a thriving economy. This need is particularly acute to address learning loss caused by the pandemic.

Research conducted by the Conference Board of Canada provides solid evidence that investing in publicly funded education benefits us all by providing more productive and healthy citizens. Every dollar invested in publicly funded education generates \$1.30 in economic benefit to Ontario. The total economic impact of university activities in Ontario is more than \$96 billion dollars annually and supports over 480,000 jobs in the province. Re-investing in our students means re-investing in our collective future.

Priorities

- Secure strong and stable funding for publicly funded schools and universities to ensure smaller classes, valuable resources, and modern facilities.
- Close the funding gap of \$1,500 per student in the K-12 sector and match future funding to inflation.
- Increase post-secondary sector funding by 20 per cent in the first year and match future funding to inflation.
- Reduce class sizes, which benefits student learning and success.



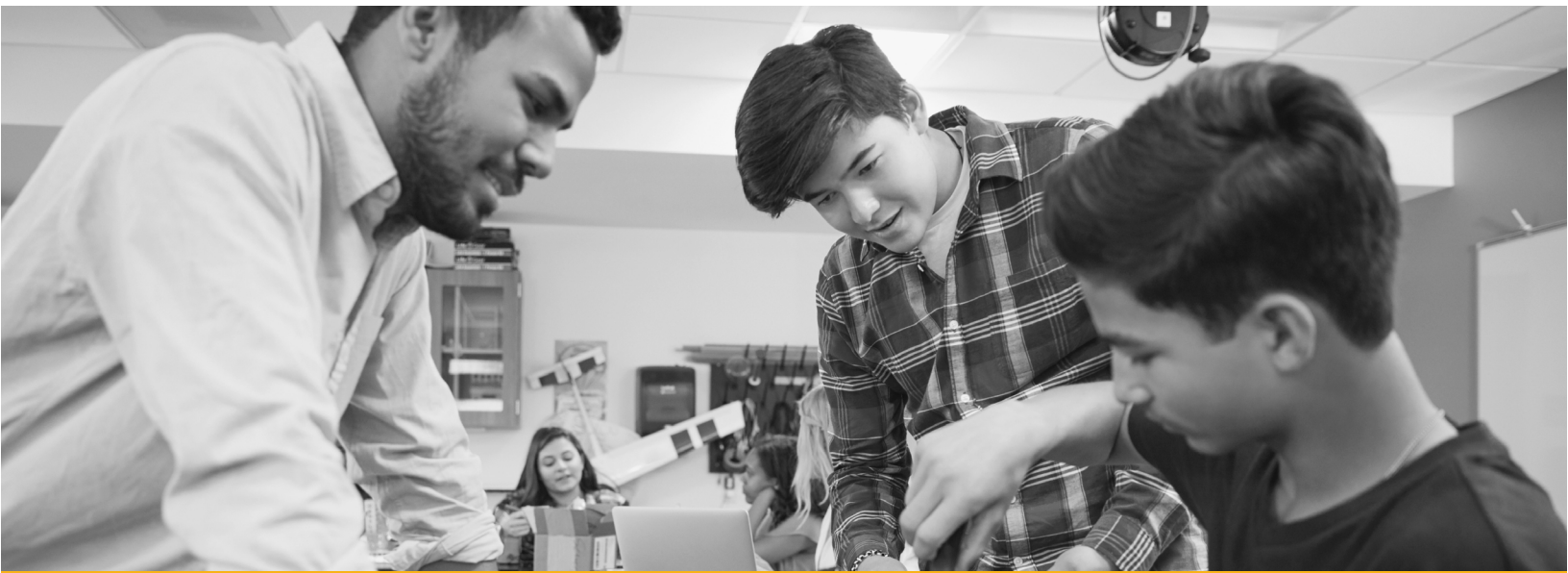
2.

Fix the teacher and education worker shortages

Ontario must provide education funding for staffing models that support the success of students and workers at school and on campus. We must increase support staff numbers to eliminate wait lists for mental health supports and ensure that every student has the support they need.

Priorities

- Invest in proven strategies to attract and retain qualified teachers and education workers from kindergarten to university, including competitive salaries, benefits, and supportive working and learning environments.
- Introduce a dedicated “stay and learn” tuition waiver program to attract students to post-secondary programs for education sector occupations experiencing shortages, similar to initiatives in health care and long-term care.
- Education staff need to be in the publicly funded education system to ensure all students have equitable access to supports and learning opportunities. Otherwise, families are forced to seek private options and pay out of pocket.
- Fix the current 1000:1 funding ratio of professional student services personnel by cutting the ratio in half in the first year of the new electoral term, and half again by the end of the term.
- Eliminate wait lists for mental health support to ensure that every student has the support they need for success.



3. Provide personalized learning and programming for students

Personalized learning and programming for students involves a holistic approach to education that includes parental and community involvement and prioritizes every student's academic, social, emotional, and physical development.

By investing in personalized learning and programming, Ontario's publicly funded schools and campuses will offer all students an enriching, supportive, and well-rounded educational environment that prepares them for success in all aspects of life.

Priorities

- Increase funding and resources for special education programs, including hiring more education workers and providing the necessary tools and support for students with special needs to thrive.
- Ensure all students have the educational opportunities they need to grow and thrive. Restore access to a wide range of course options and give students the tools they need for lifelong success.
- Restore and grow course offerings and services at post-secondary institutions to provide opportunities and prepare Ontario for the jobs of tomorrow.
- Develop every school and campus into a community hub that supports communities and newcomers with programs and services beyond the curriculum.
- Advocate for increased funding and training for all education workers and teachers to successfully implement curricular changes and lower class sizes to support student learning at all levels.
- Dismantle white supremacy and colonial legacy practices in education and take accountable action towards racial justice. Understand and work to dismantle racialization within teaching practices and education.



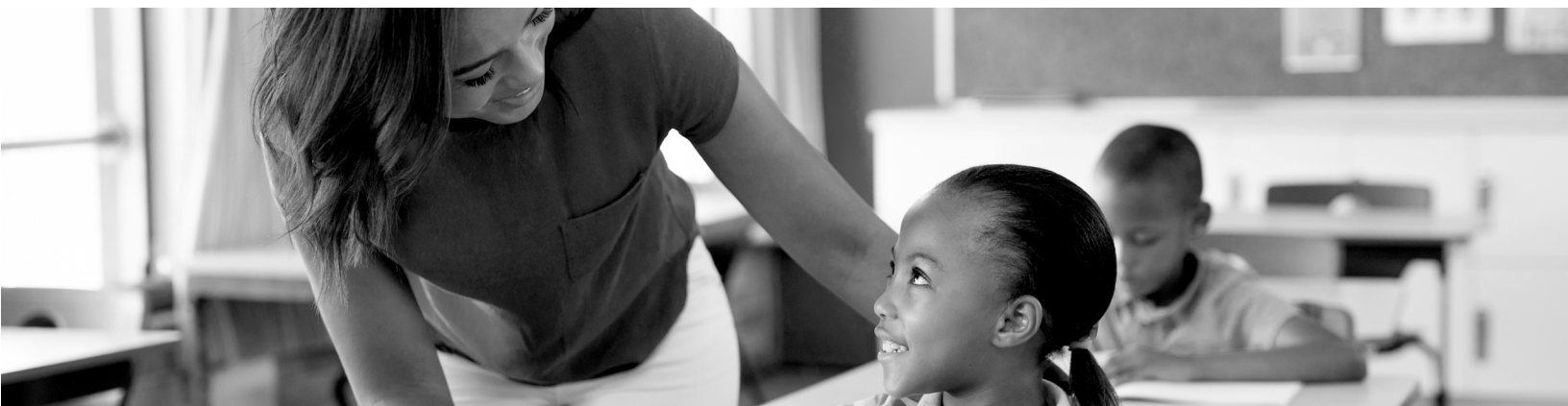
4.

Ensure safe and healthy places to learn and work

Ontario's schools and university campuses should be safe, welcoming, well-maintained, and vibrant places to work and learn. Every publicly funded school and campus must be a source of pride in communities across the province. Students and staff can succeed, excel, and feel safe when provided with world-class facilities and resources.

Priorities

- Ensure every publicly funded school and campus has appropriate access to licensed mental health professionals and educational support staff to meet the mental health and learning needs of students.
- Fix the overwhelming maintenance and repair backlog at Ontario schools and campuses.
- Double provincial funding for post-secondary facilities and equipment renewal to immediately address the safety and compliance concerns raised by the 2023 Blue-Ribbon Panel report.
- End workplace violence in schools by immediately accessing existing government funding to hire more mental health professionals and create a Community and Stakeholder Action Table to work together to find solutions to school violence and its root causes.
- Allocate emergency safe school funding to hire more qualified staff such as professional student support personnel, education assistants and other education workers.
- Establish a specific education sector regulation within the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act that considers the unique circumstances of education workplaces. The regulation should include the requirement that school board workplace violence and prevention plans and programs must be developed in consultation with a multi-site Joint Health and Safety Committee.
- Unions, school boards, and administrators should develop joint campaigns for students and community on building non-violent cultures in schools.



ONTARIO FAMILIES CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT.

It's time for Ontario's political parties to seize the opportunity and put the public education system back on track.

IT'S TIME TO

**RE-INVEST IN
PUBLIC EDUCATION**

