

EDUCATING, ORGANIZING, MOBILIZING

By Jason Kunin and Daniela Mendez



The unions protect bad teachers and fight our every effort to improve the school system.

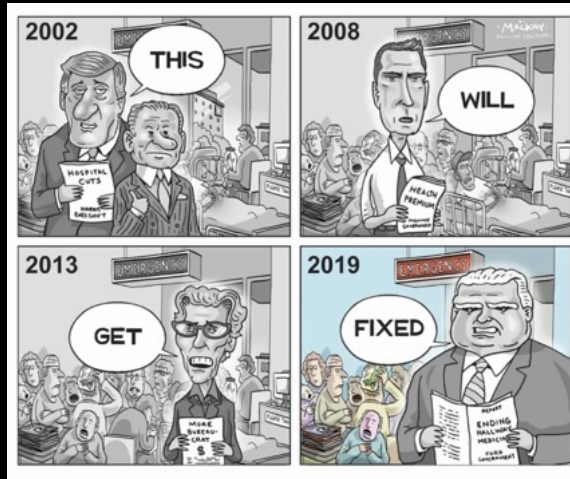
Boards focus on DEI nonsense instead of focusing on students learning the basics.

Trustees are a bunch of left-wing kooks who don't know how to manage a budget.

If teachers didn't abuse their sick days there would be more money for the classrooms.



#1. Educating



It all comes back to funding.

The destruction of public education in Ontario

1997 – The Mike Harris government passes Bill 160, which redirects the education portion of local property taxes to the provincial government, which then doled out money to local boards based on a “funding formula” that funded only operating costs of the building, not student needs.



2003-2018

The Liberal governments of Dalton McGuinty and Kathleen Wynne leave the Harris funding formula in place. Creation of the annual Grants for Student Needs mitigates the underfunding without fixing it.



2019

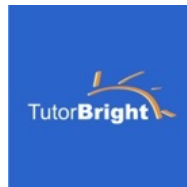
The Doug Ford government reduces the funded average for classrooms from 22:1 to 23:1, resulting in a loss of \$1500 per student. Mandatory elearning courses were introduced to cut costs, they are funded at a 1:30 ratio instead of a 1:23 ratio.



The explosion of private tutoring

2022 – “The Plan to Catch up”

- Provided up to \$200 directly to parents for tutoring and/or school supplies.
- Provided school boards with \$175 million for the purposes of contracting private companies to provide extra tutoring
- As of 2026, there are roughly 530 registered private tutoring companies in Ontario, an increase of roughly 50% since 2018



Hiding the Underfunding

2024 – The Ford government scrapped the Grants for Student Needs and rolled it into Core Funding, which contained federal money for full-day kindergarten, thereby making the tracking of year-to-year funding to schools less transparent.



Bill 33

2025 – The Ford government passed Bill 33, which facilitated the government takeover of school boards.

- Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
 - Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)
 - Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB)
 - Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB)
 - Thames Valley District School Board
 - Near North District School Board
 - Peel District School Board
 - York Catholic District School Board
-
- Elected trustees were removed from their jobs, thereby eliminating democratic oversight.



Rohit Gupta

- Managing partner of mergers and acquisitions advisory firm Harrington Place Advisors, former advisor to Metrolinx, and economic advisor to Stephen Harper
- Cancelled outdoor education programs
- Eliminated the Model Schools program that provided additional staffing and resources to schools that were low on the LOI
- Increased sizes special education classes
- Ended grade 9 enrolment at two special education schools, Eastdale and Heydon Park
- A recent Freedom of Information request revealed that he has had twice as many meetings with the Toronto Lands Corporation than parent groups



The TDSB owns \$20 billion in properties



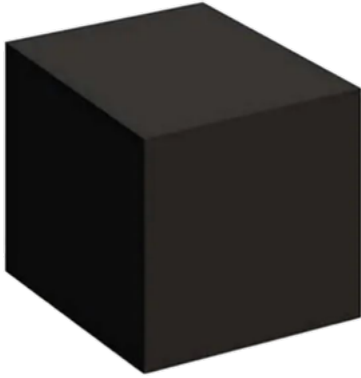
Putting Students First Act

- Bill 101 (“Putting Students First Act”) (2026) restores trustees, but cuts their number down to 12 and removes their budget responsibilities.
- Created role of a CEO to develop board budget without any need to consultation or transparency.
- Since September, 1856 classrooms have been closed across the Board (1.4 million square feet, or the equivalent of 37 junior schools)



Camillo Cipriano

Black Box



- A company or organization whose internal workings, decision-making, and financial strategies are completely hidden from outsiders
- If a channel even exists through which the public can ask questions or get help, they will most certainly never be speaking to anyone who actually has the ability to make decisions
- People might be directed to send emails to general mailboxes that no one ever checks or leave messages that no one ever reads, listens to, or responds to



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- Under supervision, parents and students have had no trustees to contact
- They are directed to a Student and Family Support line that has largely been unresponsive
- Staff needing medical leaves or medical accommodations are directed to send their medical documentation to an email that is inconsistently checked
- Medical accommodations are approved or denied by managers in a department who have no direct contact with the member seeking the accommodation, and their decisions are no longer overseen by anyone with an education background who has taught inside a school

Since 2018, staffing has not kept pace with enrolment

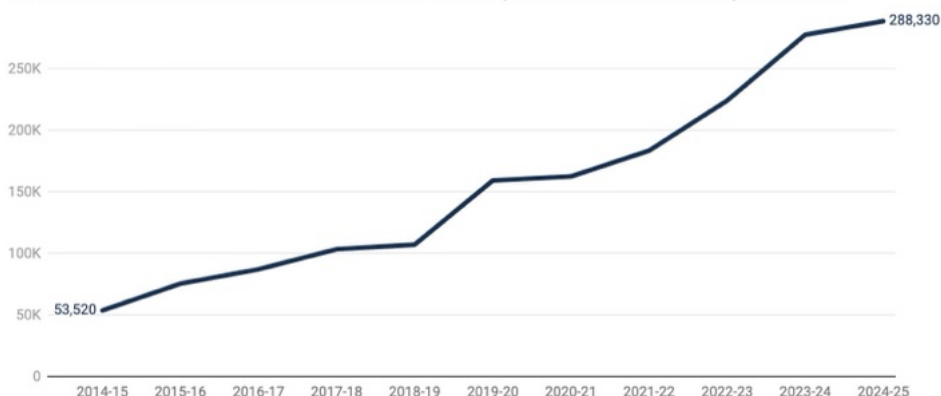
Enrolment grew by three per cent between 2018-19 and 2025-26, but staffing is growing at a slower pace

	Staffing growth rate, compared to a 3% increase in enrolment	Gap between number of current positions and a 3% increase
Classroom teachers	0.8%	-2,545
Library and guidance staff	1.6%	-61
Lunchroom, noon hour, bus and yard supervision	-0.2%	-168
Custodians	1.7%	-191
Maintenance personnel	-4.7%	-162

Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Enrolment in online courses has grown fivefold since 2014

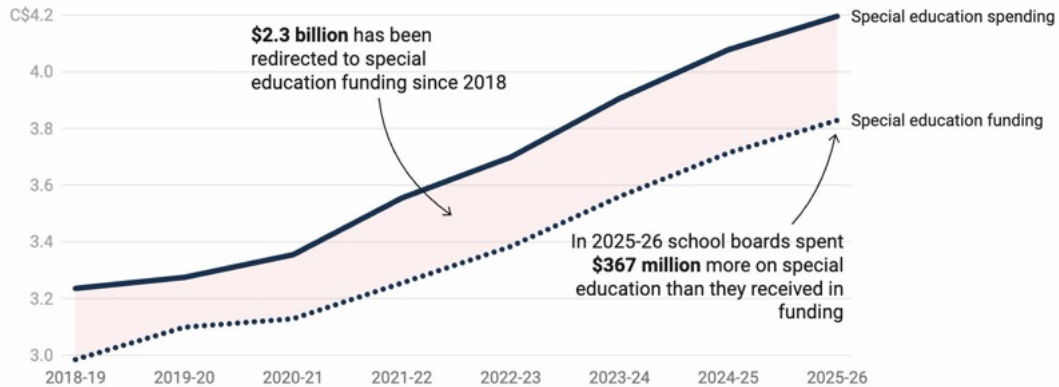
Online courses are funded at a 30-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio, compared with a 23-to-1 ratio for in-person courses



Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

The Ford government has consistently underfunded education

§ Chronic underfunding of special education creates financial pressures across the system



Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Corporate tax rate in Ontario

1995 – Around 38.4%

2025 – Around 11.5%



Capital repair backlog of Ontario Schools



\$21.7 billion

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A BETTER TOMORROW!

The two million kids in Ontario's schools will shape our future. We need to do everything we can to give them the best start.

But **\$6.5 billion in government underfunding and understaffing** are undercutting their potential.



ONTARIO'S STUDENTS ARE FACING:

OVERCROWDED AND INCREASINGLY COMPLEX CLASSROOMS

- Many classrooms have 30+ students, making it harder for educators to best support individual needs. Better-balanced classes are needed to foster student success.

NOT ENOUGH STAFF

- Schools do not have enough staff and support – and teachers and education workers are being asked to do more with less, as government underfunding leaves our most vulnerable kids behind.

UNDER-RESOURCED SCHOOLS

- Between cancelled classes, shuttered programs, inadequate staffing, and insufficient school supplies, students are losing access to the supports and resources they need to thrive.

OUR ASK IS SIMPLE:

- ✓ Smaller class sizes and better-balanced classrooms.
- ✓ Fully staffed and resourced schools.
- ✓ Real funding that supports all students.
- ✓ A safe and supportive environment for learning and growth.

TAKE ACTION

Make your voice heard!

Contact your MPP, the Premier, and the Minister of Education. Tell them that our kids deserve better!



We're Ontario's 275,000+ teachers and education workers – joined by parents and school communities across the province.

We're taking action to strengthen schools and to ensure students have the resources and supports they need to succeed.

But we can't do it alone! Let's work together for publicly funded education. Let's help every child reach their full potential.



TOGETHER FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED EDUCATION



The Ontario Government has underfunded public education since 2018 by **\$6.4 Billion Dollars.**

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
(OSSTF/FEESO)

Teachers & Education Workers are standing up for:

1. Class sizes that support learning and diverse complexities, and do not jeopardize student safety.
2. A range of programming and courses that give students opportunities for their future and enrich their lives.
3. A supportive and, equitable learning environment for all students.
4. Proper mental health services to support wellbeing and learning.
5. Specialized professional supports for students with complex needs, learning disabilities, assessment needs, autism and/or other special needs.
6. Sufficient number of trained professionals, dedicated and caring adults working in school offices, classrooms, and buildings.
7. Safe and sustainable buildings with proper funding for growth and repairs.

Follow our Underfunded campaign.

Take action at:



FUND OUR SCHOOLS

FUND OUR SCHOOLS

*Because students
are the future*



LABOUR
TORONTO & YORK REGION
COUNCIL

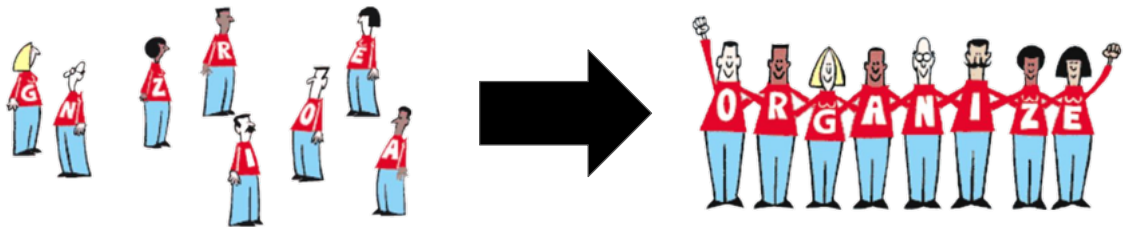
 **OSSTF Toronto**
Toronto Teachers' Bargaining Unit



ONTARIO EDUCATOR
Catholic Teachers
ASSOCIATION

23

#2. Organizing



How to Start a Movement

VIDEO:

https://www.ted.com/talks/derek_sivers_how_to_start_a_movement

If you build it...



...they will
come.

Province-Wide Rally

October 24th

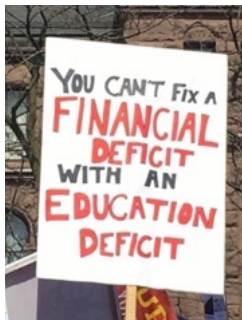
Queens Park

1:00 to 2:30



Photo from
Saturday,
April 6th,
2019 (before
strike
vote??)

Sign making (to bring on October 24th)



Days of Action - Wear a colour, send us a photo to post and drive Callandra up a wall!!



Walk-ins



Flash Pickets



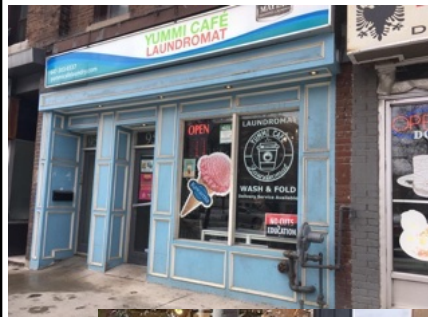
Solidarity Pickets



Flyering and Info Pickets



Sign blitzes



Pledges



#3. Mobilizing



Door-to-Door Canvassing Guide

Campaign: Protecting Public Education
(Lawn/Window Sign Delivery & Conversations)

Purpose of the Canvass

This canvass has two goals:

- 1 Deliver and install signs for supporters.
- 2 Have short, respectful conversations to build awareness and support for protecting public education.

Before You Go Out (Preparation)

Every canvasser should:

- 1 Review key messages and talking points (see info picket flyers).
- 2 Know your assigned route and target homes. Will you target high traffic areas, communities with supportive families, other?
- 3 Carry lawn and window signs, stakes, script/talking points, and water.
- 4 Clip boards, pens, and areas maps can be given to canvassers.
- 5 Wear comfortable clothing and campaign identification where possible. OSSTF/FEESO branded gear is great too!
- 6 Work in pairs where possible and establish check-in times.

Approaching a Home or Business

- 1 Walk on sidewalks or driveways and respect property.
- 2 Skip homes with No Trespassing or No Soliciting signs.
- 3 Knock or ring once or twice only, then step back.
- 4 Stand to the side of the door to appear less intrusive.

Opening Script

Hi, I'm [Name] with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation. We represent teachers and education workers in publicly funded schools across Ontario. We're talking with neighbours today about protecting public education in our community.

Core Conversation

Share a brief message:

We're working to make sure public education is properly funded and supported, and encouraging community members to show their support.

Ask a question:

Is protecting public education important to you?

What concerns do you have about schools right now? (Or) Have any of your own family and friends experienced any concerns from underfunding in our schools?

Make the ask:

Would you be open to putting up a lawn or window sign to show your support?

Door-to-Door Canvassing Guide

Campaign: Protecting Public Education
(Lawn/Window Sign Delivery & Conversations)

Handling Responses

If YES:

- Ask where they would like the sign placed.
- Thank them for their support.
- Install the sign neatly and visibly.

If UNSURE:

- Offer brief information and thank them.

If NO:

- Thank them and move on respectfully.

Behaviour Guidelines

- Be friendly, calm, and respectful.
- Keep conversations short unless invited to continue.
- Never argue or pressure someone.
- Never enter a home or remove other signage.

Safety Protocols

- Canvass in pairs.
- Stay within assigned areas.
- Avoid unsafe properties or situations.
- Bring water and snacks.
- Trust your instincts and leave if uncomfortable.
- Set a clear end time (before dark where possible).
- Carry your cell phone.

Recording Results

Track each interaction on the sheet provided and report back your results to the organizer.

- Sign placed
- Supportive
- Undecided
- Not interested
- Not home

Final Tips

- Be positive and community-focused.
- Every sign increases visibility and momentum.
- Keep moving to cover your assigned area.
- Consistent messaging strengthens the campaign.

Take action at:



UNDERFUNDED.ca



THE CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

2026 TRUSTEE ENDORSEMENTS



Get ready to vote!

Advance Voting
October 6 to 11 | Election Day
October 18



Matias de Dovitiis
Ward 1



Tim Ellis
Ward 2



Alexis Dawson
Ward 3



Brandon Choi
Ward 4



Jennifer Volk
Ward 5



Deborah Williams
Ward 7



Farzana Rajwani
Ward 8



Christopher Mammoliti
Ward 9



Karen Emerson
Ward 10



Anu Srisikandarajah
Ward 12

CAMPAIGN
FOR PUBLIC
EDUCATION

