

Bill 98: *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*

The Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce introduced this legislation on April 17, 2023. It received Royal Assent on June 8, 2023. The bill proposed changes to the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*, the *Education Act*, and the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996*.

Legislative Amendment	Intended Outcome	Comes into Force	Status
Accountability and Transparency			
<u>Provincial Priorities Framework</u>	Establish a formal and transparent approach to provincial priority setting, performance reporting and supporting boards to address varying performance and focus on student achievement	June 8, 2023 (except for regulation-making authority to set priorities, which will come into effect upon proclamation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Posting on June 13, 2023 • OPSBA Submission on July 6, 2023 • Regulation in Force: July 28, 2023.
<u>Transparent and Accountable Use of Resources</u>	Strengthen accountability over school board spending and require transparent reporting on how school board spending supports student outcomes.	June 8, 2023 (except for setting limits on funding envelopes and expanding authorized financial investigators, which will come into effect upon proclamation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work underway
<u>School Board-Municipality Cooperation in support of Child Care Programs</u>	Support the implementation of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.	Upon proclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing and currently in place
<u>Accelerated Apprenticeship Pathways</u>	Support the province's priority of addressing labour market needs for the skilled trades and help students enter the skilled trades faster.	Upon proclamation, pending consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPSBA will be invited to provide feedback as part of the consultations taking place in Fall

Legislative Amendment	Intended Outcome	Comes into Force	Status
Governance and Leadership			
<u>Training</u>	Support all trustees and senior board officials to develop the skills and competencies to deliver on provincial priorities.	June 8, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPSBA letter sent on July 11, 2023 • Plans for OPSBA PES 2024
<u>Trustee Conduct</u>	Resolve code of conduct complaints in a fair, timely and transparent manner.	Upon proclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work underway • Consultations expected Fall 2023
<u>Directors of Education Performance Appraisals</u>	Support school boards in assessing the performance of Directors of Education and ensure more consistent approaches that consider performance in relation to provincial priorities.	Upon proclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPSBA Consultation with EDU on September 27, 2023 • Regulatory posting on October 3, 2023 • Feedback due on November 2, 2023
Maximizing Capital Assets			
<u>Leveraging Surplus School Board Property</u>	Better leverage surplus property for public education and other provincial priorities.	Information requirement is in force as of June 8, 2023. Surplus Framework will be upon proclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory posting on September 19, 2023 • Feedback due October 19, 2023
<u>Addressing High Growth Areas/Needs</u>	Address accommodation needs in urban/high growth areas.	Upon proclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory posting on September 19, 2023 • Feedback due October 19, 2023

Legislative Amendment	Intended Outcome	Comes into Force	Status
<u>Early and Integrated Planning with Municipalities</u>	Ensure better planning for schools and associated child care facilities.	June 8, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing and currently in place
<u>Joint Use of Schools</u>	Maximize school capacity, where appropriate so students can go to school as close to home as possible.	No later than December 31, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with school board/trustee associations October 2023
<u>Enhancement of Design Standardization</u>	Improve consistency at the design phase to help reduce planning time and expedite the approvals process.	June 8, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in the launch of the 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program (August 14, 2023) Memo B08
Teacher Training and Educator Oversight			
<u>Effective Teacher Disciplinary Processes and Funding Eligibility for Students who have been subjects of Sexual Abuse</u>	Increase public confidence in the protection of students and increase efficiency in the Ontario College of Teachers and College of Early Childhood Educators investigations discipline and other operations.	June 8, 2023 (except for clarifying inactive/non-practicing membership status and revoking certificates suspended for failure to pay fees or provide information to the Ontario College of Teachers, which is upon proclamation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently in place with the exception of below: Proclamation of clarifying inactive/non-practicing membership status and revoking certificates suspended for failure to pay fees or provide information to the Ontario College of Teachers, Pending OCT assessment of implementation.

Legislative Amendment	Intended Outcome	Comes into Force	Status
<u>Modernize Teacher Education</u>	Create a streamlined, flexible and responsive teacher education program that focuses on core content that prepares teachers to meet student academic demands and allows for appropriate classroom assignments.	June 8, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in place
Consistent Information and Approaches to Student Learning			
<u>Curriculum Review Process and Materials</u>	Ensure curriculum is reviewed regularly and is informed by experts on pedagogy and labour market needs.	June 8, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work underway • In addition to work on a new Curriculum Review Guide, the Minister issued new curriculum updates for the 2023-24 school year last Spring, including: • Elementary Language and Français curriculum and new, de-streamed Grade 9 English and Français courses. • Social Studies, Grades 1 to 3 Curriculum –Mandatory Indigenous-focused learning • Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum – Mandatory Holocaust learning • Grade 10 Digital Technology and Innovations in the Changing World • Financial Literacy Modules

<p><u>Consistency in Student Mental Health supports and Special Education</u></p>	<p>Support consistency in the delivery of mental health education and services and promote inclusive language on special education in the French version of the <i>Education Act</i>.</p>	<p>Consistency in Student Mental Health supports are in force as of June 8, 2023</p> <p>Consistency in Special Education terminology will be upon proclamation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Literacy Modules • Student Mental Health PPM 169 (released July 28, 2023 / effective January 2024) • Special Education terminology: Work underway
---	---	--	---