

# Education Funding

## What's the issue?

Education is the second-largest funding line in the Provincial Budget. It is largely determined by a series of grants known as the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). The GSN supports funding for the classroom, school leadership and operations, specific student-related priorities and local management by school boards. Much of the funding is tied to specific grant categories and must be used for that purpose only. School boards continue to stress the need for local flexibility in order to comply with provincial balanced budget legislation, yet still meet unique local cost pressures and needs. **Eighty-three percent of Ontarians support or somewhat support school boards having more autonomy to ensure their budgets reflect local needs.**

The Conference Board of Canada has stated that, "Each dollar of public education spending generates \$1.30 in total economic impacts to Ontario." **Our recent polling supports this with 94% of Ontarians agreeing or somewhat agreeing that spending on public education is an investment for the future. Moreover, 61% believe spending money on public education is more important than eliminating the deficit or paying down the debt. A majority of Ontarians (65%) think funding for education should be set based on the number of students and inflation.**

## Current Challenges:

- Virtually all boards have students with greater special education needs than the provincial funding formula provides for, and as a result use money from other areas to support these students.
- In order to address the local conditions and challenges that vary across our province, the funding formula should allow for greater flexibility. For example, issues in rural and remote Ontario can be very different from large urban centres, and therefore locally elected boards should have the ability to address these local needs.

OPSBA believes that strong and equitable education funding is a foundational factor in setting the conditions that promote and sustain student achievement.

## Questions

How can we ensure school boards receive stable and predictable funding to support long term student achievement and well-being strategies?

Do you support reviewing special education funding?

Would you like to see greater flexibility in the funding formula?



The Ontario Public School Boards' Association represents English public district school boards and public school authorities across Ontario, which together serve more than 1.3 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the English public school system in Ontario.