

2018 Provincial Party Election Platforms vs. OPSBA Priorities

During provincial elections, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) advocates for non-partisan strategies to engage politicians in issues that focus on education and the well-being of children and youth. OPSBA declared May 23, 2018, as Education Day in the province of Ontario. Around this day, school board trustees invited local candidates from the four major provincial parties to attend provincial *All Candidates Meetings* in their ridings across the province. In addition, OPSBA contacted the four major political party leaders and shared our Provincial Election Package that outlines the Association's Priorities and a series of questions for the parties to answer.

This summary of information is based on party answers to OPSBA's questionnaire, official party platforms/releases, media clips and party announcements made as of **May 30, 2018**. The chart attempts to compare our Priorities against party platforms based on available information and may not contain all information. The order of the parties listed is based on current party standings at Queen's Park.

OPSBA Priority	Liberal	PC	NDP	Green
The Whole Child and Student Well Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.1 billion investment over four years in mental health and addiction services. • Add 2,000 new teachers and education workers, including more Education Assistants to support kids with exceptionally high needs and more specialists, including behavioural specialists and speech language pathologists. • Explore curriculum links for the Edible Gardens Program, which creates experiential learning for students in agriculture, environmental sciences and healthy living. • Support heritage language education. • Enhance students' access to arts education in dance, drama, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest \$3.8 billion in mental health, addictions and housing supports over 10 years. • Enhance the Ontario Autism Program by adding \$100 million in new funding in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. • Support the expansion of the use of autism service dogs in schools across the province. • Restore Ontario's previous sex-ed curriculum and install a new one that is age appropriate and based on real consultation with parents. • Scrap 'discovery math' and inquiry-based learning in classrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire 2,200 new mental health care workers (including counsellors, social workers, case managers, system navigators and assertive community treatment staff), allowing 28,000 more Ontarians to access the services they need every year, and create a dedicated Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. • To assist children and youth in particular, invest \$590 million over five years to expand services and increase staff. • Base special education funding on needs, not overall populations. Launch a comprehensive autism-support strategy, built in collaboration with parents, caregivers, experts and people with autism. Build on Ontario's Provincial and Demonstration schools' track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide greater access to mental health services for students within the education system by increasing the availability of school counselors, psychologists, behavioral scientists, and social workers. • Deliver front-line children's services by increasing funding for school counsellors, specialist teachers, psychologists, behavioural counsellors, social workers, librarians, speech language pathologists, and educational assistants so that students have greater access to services and shorter wait times. • Prioritize the increased integration of social services within education, including embedding mental health services into education and greater collaboration across ministries.

	<p>music and the visual arts, including a \$3 million investment to refurbish musical instruments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicate one professional development day per year to math teaching and learning, create more math supports outside the school day and expand online math tutoring resources and homework help. • Add 450 guidance teachers in elementary schools to help students transition to high school and start career planning. • Continue to expand opportunities for a delivery of 60 minutes of daily physical activity tied to the school day. 		<p>record of success, especially in helping students who are deaf, blind or deaf-blind, and students with severe learning disabilities who need greater support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the curriculum update currently underway, and pay particular attention to career counselling for a changing workplace, as well as financial literacy and mathematics. 	
<p>New Generation Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a Transformation Steering Committee consisting of a broad representation of students, parents, educators, school and system leaders, Indigenous partners and business to secure input and advice that will inform changes moving forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return the education system back to basics, teach students the fundamentals of mathematics, and move toward improving math scores among Ontario’s students. This will include making mathematics mandatory in Ontario’s faculties of education. • Ban cell phones in all primary and secondary school classrooms, in order to maximize learning time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 27,000 new job opportunities for students: Paid co-op and internship opportunities that allow students to graduate with real-world experience. • Ensure schools teach inclusive history, including Indigenous history and the legacy of colonialism, the history of Black 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a necessary first step to student success in the 21st century, would address the current \$612 per pupil funding gap between elementary and secondary students to appropriately fund our educational system. • Would also ensure that the average class size for grades 4 to 8 does not exceed 22 students in order to provide a greater

			<p>Ontarians, our province’s history with the Underground Railroad, and Caribbean and African experiences.</p>	<p>opportunity for students to achieve their learning potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would build upon current programming and instructional expertise in relation to the findings of the Transformation Steering Committee (established by the Liberal government in 2017).
<p>Advocating for the Role of Trustees as Members of the Board and Building Leadership Capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respects the critical role of democratically elected local school board trustees in addressing the unique needs of students in their communities. • Committed to supporting local school board autonomy and flexibility. • Increased the trustee honoraria rate and will continue to review the honoraria formula with our partners next year. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the importance of democratically-elected school trustees, who are close to their communities. • Support school boards by first and foremost funding schools properly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the funding matches the needs and expectations of the school boards and school board trustees.
<p>Labour Relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support and foster collaborative professionalism in Ontario’s education system, which is central not only to labour peace but to advancing the vision of <i>Achieving Excellence</i>. • Amended the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act to 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully support teachers' and education workers' right to strike. • The only party that voted against Bill 115, which was found to violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by stripping Ontario education workers of their right to bargain collectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a collective bargaining process that gives teachers the right to free and fair bargaining. • Was completely opposed to Bill 115, which was found to violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by stripping Ontario education workers of their right to bargain collectively.

	<p>include 5 days' notice in the event that a strike could impact the school day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respects the importance of collective bargaining and is committed to ensure it is carried out in good faith. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of a labour dispute, will ensure that all parties are participating fully at the table and bargaining in good faith, to ensure labour peace is achieved in a timely manner. 	
Education Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By reviewing the funding formula each year through an annual engagement with our education partners, able to make incremental changes. Changed about 90% of the education funding formula since 2013 and are committed to continuing to review the formula to advance student achievement, well-being and equity. Double funding to school boards for locally determined well-being programs, such as breakfast programs and bullying prevention 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhaul the education funding formula starting with a comprehensive public review based on two key principles: equity and quality. A new funding formula will allow us to curb class sizes and support our most vulnerable students and their teachers, an important step in making classroom environments safer and more conducive to learning. The new model will take into account factors that affect rural and remote schools, such as school transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce legislation for a comprehensive, evidence-based review of the funding and performance of Ontario's elementary and secondary education system every five years, beginning immediately. Unify publicly funded schools into a single school system with both English and French schools.
Advancing Reconciliation: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to supporting the well-being and achievement of Indigenous learners and increasing all students' knowledge and understanding 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure history education includes the full story of Indigenous peoples, the lasting impacts of colonialism and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive of the Indigenous Education Strategy, which provides \$66 million each year to help school boards support Indigenous students and requires

	<p>of First Nation, Métis and Inuit histories, cultures, contributions and perspectives. Created the first ever Indigenous Education Strategy and now provides over \$66 million each year in dedicated funding to help school boards support Indigenous students. Every school board is now required to have an Indigenous Education Lead and an Indigenous Education Advisory Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invested \$10 million in the revitalization of indigenous languages, and are supporting Indigenous Institutes with \$56 million in funding over three years. • Implement a revised curriculum in September 2018 for all students that reflects the contributions, cultures and perspectives of Indigenous peoples, including the role of treaties and the history of residential schools. 		<p>residential schools, and the need for reconciliation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to working with First Nations and cultural community leaders, experts and advocates to identify the supports racialized and Indigenous children need to succeed and thrive. • Make a \$209 million investment in the First Nations Health Action Plan that would include expanded youth programs, crisis support, trauma response teams, and suicide-prevention training. • Ensure that history education includes the full, rich story of Indigenous peoples, the lasting impacts of colonialism and residential schools, and the need for reconciliation. 	<p>every school board to have an Indigenous Education Lead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide professional learning for our educators based on the recently released <i>Strengthening Our Learning Journey</i> report, which is the third progress report on the implementation of the Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework (2007).
Other Issues in Education				
School Closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2018 the Ministry of Education released a revised Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uphold moratorium on school closures until the closure review process is reformed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratorium on school closings: work with local boards to continue to develop schools as community hubs where everyone 	

			can access great public programming and use these facilities.	
Standardized Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 24, 2018, The Ministry of Education released <i>Ontario: A Learning Province</i>. This report is the summation of the government's commissioned review of student assessment and reporting led by Dr. Carol Campbell. The report has two sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Classroom Assessment:</i> The government will proceed with the 18 recommendations and work with the Transformation Steering Committee to develop an implementation plan. <i>Large Scale Assessment:</i> There was no clear consensus and further sector engagement will take place. Until that time, EQAO will continue, status quo, with no break in delivering assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform the current EQAO testing model, and instead introduce a standardized testing model that more directly tests fundamental math skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End EQAO tests. Savings will be reinvested in classrooms. Working collaboratively with educators, the party would determine how random sampling could support spotting early trends and deciding where to focus on improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past decade, have been the only party to annually call for the end of EQAO in favour of utilizing its \$30 million annual budget to hire over 1000 Educational Assistants.
Early Years / Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free licensed child care for pre-school children (age 2 ½ to kindergarten) starting in 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover up to \$6,750 per child under the age of 15 and estimate it will cost the government \$389 million annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free child care at public daycare centres for families earning \$40,000 annually or less as well as \$12-per-day child care for 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect parents by leaving to them the choice of what kind of child care is best for their kids. 	<p>other low- and middle-income families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase by 50 per cent the number of child-care places • Cap kindergarten classrooms at 26 children and end Kindergarten/Grade 1 split classrooms. 	
Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$784 million investment to build 39 schools and renovate 40 existing schools across the province. • Launching a new engagement focused on the challenges facing education planning in urban areas this fall, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban Student Accommodation Engagement: focusing on supports for pupil accommodation in urban areas experiencing rapid population intensification and will include Education Development Charges. ○ Land Priorities Enhancement: the government will increase funding from \$60 million 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 10-year capital plan will invest \$16-billion to address the repair backlog in Ontario's schools. • Change the rules around Education Development Charges so they can be used to fund new schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to a 10-year investment to eliminate the \$15 billion deferred maintenance backlog in our schools.

	to \$100 million this year which will support land acquisition for all boards.			
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