

## Consultation: Education in Ontario

We invite everyone – parents, students, educators and interested individuals or organizations – to provide feedback on the education system in Ontario.

Our goal is to prepare Ontario students for success, improve their academic achievement and equip them with the tools needed to enter the working world.

**Consultation closing date: December 15, 2018**

### Online Survey Registration

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Ontario government's consultations on education reform in Ontario.

To complete the online survey, you need to register by entering your email address below. Your responses will be received anonymously — and unconnected to your email address.

After you have registered, you will receive an email from [survey@fortheparents.ca](mailto:survey@fortheparents.ca) with a single use link to the survey. Be sure to add this email address to your safe senders list so the email doesn't go into your junk mail!

Due to the unprecedented scope of these consultations and the high volume of registrations anticipated, it could take up to 48 hours for this email to reach you. Please note that the survey is available in both official languages.

### **GENERAL** Tell us about yourself.

#### Are you a... Select all that apply

- Parent or guardian
- Adult with no children
- Student attending an elementary (K-8) or secondary (9-12) school
- Educator, early childhood educator, principal, vice principal
- Employer
- Other (please specify)

#### Are you a parent with school aged children?

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

#### How many of the children living in your home are in each grade range?

- Kindergarten or younger
- Grades 1-3
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-8
- Grades 9-12
- Beyond secondary school
- I prefer not to say

#### What school type are you/your child(ren) currently enrolled in? Select all that apply.

- English-Public
- English-Catholic
- French-Public
- French-Catholic
- Independent / Private
- First Nation operated or federally operated school
- Home school
- I don't know
- I prefer not to say

**Does your child have special needs or accessibility requirements?**

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

**Parents are children's primary educators. To support the education process, what would you be willing to do? Please select all that apply. Answer options: Likely, Unlikely, and Unsure.**

- Have a discussion with your child's teacher
- Visit websites to learn more about the curriculum and school programs
- Read fact sheets about the curriculum
- Use online resources to enhance your child's learning in a specific topic

**Do you participate in parent-teacher nights at your children's school? Please select one.**

- Always
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- No, but I am aware of them
- No, because I am not aware of them

**What are the first three digits of your postal code?**

**Are you willing to do a consultation like this about Ontario's education system every 5 years or so?**

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

**The Ontario College of Teachers has been regulating the teaching profession in Ontario since 1997, including conducting investigations and communicating with the public on behalf of the teaching profession. Before taking this survey, were you aware of the Ontario College of Teachers?**

- Yes
- No

**How important is it to you that the Ontario College of Teachers exists? Answer options 5 – Very Important to 1 – I'm not sure.**

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)**

**Ontario needs to improve student achievement in math. Where should we focus? Please rate the following areas where 5 can make the most difference and 1 can make the least difference.**

- Improved standardized testing
- Early exposure to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines
- Teacher resources
- Teacher training
- Increased classroom time devoted to math
- Math fundamentals (e.g. Standard method of solving a math problem, memorizing multiplication tables)
- Practical examples that use math
- Other

**Are you spending your own time to help your children learn math outside the classroom?**

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

**How much time are you spending to help your children learn math outside the classroom?**

- Up to 2 hours per week
- 2-5 hours per week
- More than 5 hours per week

**Are you spending your own money to help your children learn math outside the classroom?**

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

**How much money are you spending to help your children learn math outside the classroom?**

- \$0-\$50 per week
- \$51 - \$100 per week
- More than \$100 per week

**Are Ontario's schools doing enough to promote STEM disciplines in elementary school?**

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

**What math skills are current students most lacking? Answer options: 5 – Most Lacking to 1 – I'm not sure.**

- Academic skills: Math skills that can be used in other subject areas such as science, engineering and technology
- Technological skills: Computer literacy and coding
- Life skills: Making change with money and budgeting
- Job skills: Evaluating contracts and managing finances

**How will you know a student has the needed math fundamentals? Select all that apply**

- When they can do mental calculations for basic arithmetic and multiplication
- When they can understand and use numbers (for example, being able to read, represent, count, order, estimate, compare numbers)
- When they can show their work to explain their solutions
- When they can apply math – including special fields like geometry – to workplace applications like measuring and building

- None of the above

**At what level should students start learning about the following?**

- Impact of technology (e.g. on society, on career opportunities)
- Accounting skills (e.g. income, expenses, assets, liabilities)
- Computer coding (e.g. programming, languages)
- Economics (e.g. individuals, business, government, consumers, producers)
- Engineering (e.g. problem solving, design, robotics)
- Financial literacy (e.g. budgeting, importance of saving money, balancing a cheque book)

## **JOB SKILLS**

**How important is it that schools teach each of these job and life skills? Answer options: 5 – Very Important to 1 – I’m not Sure.**

- Using technology
- Entrepreneurship
- Employability skills like teamwork, communication, personal initiative, and good character
- Skilled trades ( e.g. electricians and carpenters)
- Math skills
- Problem solving
- Managing personal finances
- Writing and communicating
- Computer coding

**Do you believe schools are doing enough to promote the skilled trades/apprenticeship opportunities? Please choose one.**

- Yes
- No
- I’m not sure

**Do parents and students have enough information about job availability and rates of pay when choosing between post-secondary options like college, trades/apprenticeships or university? Please choose one.**

- Yes
- No
- I’m not sure

**Ontario needs more skilled tradespeople. One option is to allow young people to begin apprenticeships and training earlier. Would you support this approach? Please choose one.**

- Yes
- No
- I’m not sure

**At what age should young people begin apprenticeships and training? Please choose one.**

- 14-15 years old
- 16-17 years old
- 18-19 years old
- 20-21 years old
- I’m not sure

## TESTING

Standardized testing in Ontario is done by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) in:

- Grades 3 and 6 (reading, writing and math)
- Grade 9 (math)
- Grade 10 (literacy).

School-by-school EQAO results are made public on the EQAO website.

How should EQAO assessments be administered? Please choose one.

- To all students in grades 3, 6, 9 and 10
- To a sample of students in grades 3, 6, 9 and 10
- Not at all
- I'm not sure

When should standardized testing take place? Please choose one.

- Continue as it is currently (Grades 3, 6, 9 and 10)
- More frequently
- Less frequently
- Never
- I'm not sure

What subjects should be the focus of standardized testing in Ontario? Select all that apply.

- Arts
- History
- Science
- Math
- Geography
- Literacy
- Social Studies
- None
- Other
- I'm not sure

Which of the following statements best describes your views about EQAO testing? Please choose one.

- The testing helps improve education by ensuring accountability at schools across Ontario
- The testing disrupts education by requiring teachers to teach to the test
- I'm not sure

## FINANCIAL LITERACY

Canada's Task Force on Financial Literacy identified that "financial literacy means having the knowledge, skills and confidence to make responsible financial decisions at any stage of your life."

How well is the current education system teaching students about the following life skills?  
Answer options: 5 – Very Well to 1 – I'm not sure.

- Using a credit card responsibly
- Protecting against financial fraud
- Understanding savings, investing and planning for retirement
- Calculating interest and interest payments
- Managing their own bank account
- Understanding the concept of living within their means

## **CELL PHONES**

**When should cellphones be banned in schools? Please choose one.**

- Always: they should not be permitted on school property
- During instructional time: they should be allowed only during breaks such as recess and lunch
- During instructional time unless directed by the teacher for an educational reason (and allowed during breaks)
- Never: they should be allowed at all times

## **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

**Ontario parents voted for consultation on the province's Health and Physical Education curriculum. Which of the following topics should be covered in a revised Health and Physical Education curriculum and at what age should they first be introduced? Answer options: Should the topic be covered and at what age?**

- Sexual, physical and emotional abuse and how to seek support services if they occur
- Sexual orientation
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Consent (understanding that yes means yes, and no means no)
- Medical terms for body parts
- Various forms of family structures
- Online safety (making good decisions, guarding against predators, sexting, cyber bullying, etc.)
- The role of love and commitment in intimacy
- Gender identity, gender selection, and gender reassignment
- Contraceptive options
- The physical, emotional, and social changes that occur at puberty

**How much do you trust these sources of information on sexual health for students?**

- Religious and community leaders
- Other media including TV, movies, music videos, magazines
- School curriculum/ teacher
- Internet and social media (e.g. Facebook)
- Parents
- Doctor or nurse
- Academic experts
- Children's friends and peers

**Are the following topics being effectively taught through the Health and Physical Education curriculum?**

- Concussions and head injuries
- Mental health and addictions
- The benefits and risks of social media

- Body image
- Body shaming
- Nutrition
- Bullying
- Importance of physical activity

**Recreational cannabis use is legal in Ontario for ages 19+ as of October 17, 2018.**

**Do you think students should learn about cannabis laws, safe cannabis use, and the risks of cannabis use?**

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

**Do you believe the curriculum teaches enough about the risks of alcohol consumption?**

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

**Today's students experience pressures unlike ever before. What supports are most needed to ensure students can confidently achieve their highest potential? Please select all that apply**

- Stress management resources
- Teaching kids how to ask for help
- Additional resources about holistic well-being, mental health and mental illness
- Resources for parents to use with their children
- A greater emphasis on mentorship and coaching
- None of the above

**In your opinion, who should teach about the dangers of distracted driving (e.g. texting)? Choose one**

- The education curriculum should cover this topic
- It should be left to third-party providers of driver training courses
- I'm not sure.

**How do we ensure school aged children are getting the required amount of physical activity each day?**

## **PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS**

**We are developing Ontario's first ever Parents' Bill of Rights. What are the most important principles to have in the Parents' Bill of Rights?**