

The Whole Child and Student Well-Being

What's the issue?

School boards strive to improve student achievement and well-being by creating the conditions for all students to learn the skills, attitudes, values and knowledge required for active, compassionate participation in the life of their family, community and as a global citizens. Every student should be provided with a range of program options that allow them to pursue a pathway that supports their interests and strengths. **Our recent data shows that 67% of Ontarians oppose or somewhat oppose having fewer course options available for students.**

Mental health and well-being continue to be areas of concern in schools today. There is a direct relationship between students with mental health issues and academic performance. Although school boards are uniquely positioned to develop strategies to support mental health and well being of students, there must be adequate and timely access to coordinated and integrated community based services. Gaps in mental health service and supports need to be addressed. **Eighty-eight percent of Ontarians support or somewhat support more funding for special education to support mental health for students and staff.**

There is evidence-based research and data that clearly shows there are, and will continue to be, many prospects for well-paid skilled trade jobs in the future. **This is supported by 94% of Ontarians, who support or somewhat support expanding opportunities for students to learn skilled trades and earn apprenticeship hours in secondary school.**

Current Challenges:

- More professionals. An increase is needed in the number of mental health workers in schools and community supports for sufficient pathways to care across the province.
- E-learning stakeholder consultation is required. The government intends to introduce mandatory e-learning for all secondary students and school boards need to be part of the implementation discussion.

OPSBA believes that improving student achievement, well-being, and student engagement is directly linked to ensuring that we work collaboratively to support the social, emotional, mental and physical well-being of all children and youth in our increasingly complex world.

Questions

What can be done to maintain and expand the mental health resources and supports to children and youth?

How can we further promote the value of careers in the skilled trades?

What types of courses, and opportunities can we offer to keep students engaged at school?



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.