

October 30, 2025

OPSBA Submission re: Bill 56, Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025 and Schedule 5 Highway Traffic Act

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) would like to share brief comments regarding Bill 56, Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025 and the proposed changes included in Schedule 5 Highway Traffic Act and the dismantlement of established automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras, including those located near and around public schools.

We were dismayed that this legislation was part of a time allocation motion that limited public debate and the opportunity to address a committee at public hearings. OPSBA was [part of the many community voices](#) that strongly opposed this change in policy, which is a reversal of the government's 2019 plan. This included municipal councils, community leaders, public health experts, and law enforcement organizations.

Safety is a top priority for school boards, who are collectively committed to providing environments that are safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all of our students, families, staff, and communities. Many boards have established protocols and partnerships with their local municipalities and in 2019, [we supported the government's plan](#) to develop a framework that allowed municipalities to introduce ASE cameras in school zones and community safety zones. We agreed this was a proactive and evidence-supported idea. Schools are often community hubs and have many partners using their indoor and outdoor facilities. That's why school boards and municipal partners have worked together and made decisions to support community safety.

Speed cameras have proven to be an effective tool in slowing down speeding drivers and keeping children and families safe near schools. The direction to dismantle these speed cameras and simply install school zone signs in their place, is irresponsible and risks the lives of children, their families, and indeed all pedestrians and vulnerable road and sidewalk users.

School boards have already been instructed to connect with their local municipal partners to work on the installation of signs with a deadline of November 14, 2025. They have been instructed that if a speed camera is currently in place in a school zone and the municipality is not able to install signs by November 14, 2025, then, "school boards are to install temporary "School Zone" signs on school property, abutting the roadway, in the affected school zone." These temporary signs are to be provided by the Ministry of Transportation and be reimbursed for reasonable installation costs. This deadline could impact other projects that require staff time within the school board.

These changes, as seems to be the case with much of this government's recent proposals, are happening at a quick pace without proper public consultation. We are very concerned about how this policy change will be communicated with communities and will continue to work with municipalities to monitor and track incidents that occur near our schools.

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association represents English public district school boards and public school authorities across Ontario, which together serve nearly 1.4 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario. OPSBA is seen as the credible voice of public education in Ontario and is routinely called on by the provincial government for input and advice on legislation and the impact of government policy directions.