

July 15, 2025

OPSBA Submission re: Proposal for amending Regulations under the *Education Act* to support children and students for future success (School Day Operations and Celebrating Ontario Day)

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) is pleased to provide some brief comments for this current regulatory posting concerning School Day Operations and Celebrating Ontario Day – two matters that were first addressed with the recent introduction of Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025 and included in a May 29 memo sent to the education sector.

OPSBA senior staff discussed these two items, but due to the timing of this posting and very short deadline for commentary, the Association will be convening the members of our Education Program and Policy Development Work Groups to examine the regulatory amendments more fully at their next meeting in early September.

School Day Operations

- OPSBA supports the intent of the amendment to [Ontario Regulation 298: Operation of Schools – General](#) to allow for greater local flexibility in structuring school day schedules for students in Kindergarten to Grades 6.
- This would follow the current practice adopted in many schools (the balanced day) that have responded to the local needs of their student populations in support of student achievement and well-being.
- We note the importance of classroom breaks such as recess and the need to still provide a dedicated lunch break. Many schools are working with committed partners on school food programs, and we would want to ensure any changes are communicated to ensure these programs can still be delivered.

Celebrating Ontario Day

- OPSBA supports the intent of amending [Ontario Regulation 304: School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days](#) to recognize Ontario Day (June 1) annually in schools.
- With respect to celebrating historical social, economic, political and cultural contributions and any milestones, we would want to ensure this includes impacts made from Ontario's many diverse communities, reflecting varying ethnic and racial identities, creeds, religions, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, etc., including local community influences
- We recommend that any resources provided recognize Ontario's First Nations, Inuit, and Métis cultures, contributions, and histories, and honour the province's treaty relations and obligations.

Thank you for your consideration of our initial feedback and we would be pleased to meet with ministry staff, as always, to ensure effective implementation of these changes, especially if they are intended for this upcoming school year. We would also be pleased to work with the ministry in regard to the development of any resources and communications to support these changes.

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.