

PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION CAN HELP

From our website, to our online community, to personal support through our toll-free parent phone line, you can get the information and resources you need, and answers to all your education questions.

- How can we make our school a **community hub**?
- Who makes the decisions about **education funding** and policy?
- What is an **EQAO** test?
- My child needs a **special education** program; where can I go for help?
- When should students start making decisions about **high school**?
- How can our school have a more effective **school council**?
- What is a "**Healthy School**," and how can we make our school one?

Or you can join our online community and exchange information and ideas with us, and with parents and school communities from around the province!

Visit our website to find multi-lingual information for parents in over 15 languages.

PHONE US

1-888-534-3944
(in Toronto call 416-534-3944)

EMAIL US

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WRITE US

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LOG ON TO OUR INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

www.peopleforeducation.com

WHO WE ARE

People for Education is an independent parent-led organization, working to support public education, parents, schools and school communities, in Ontario's English, Catholic and French schools.

We work in four main areas:

RESEARCH

- An annual survey of programs and resources in Ontario schools
- An annual survey of school councils
- Research partnerships with universities, including Queen's, York, and OISE at the University of Toronto
- Reports on topics like *The Arts in Schools*, *Ontario's Urban Schools* and *Declining Enrolment*

PARENT AND SCHOOL COUNCIL SUPPORT

- A toll-free phone line
- Multi-lingual tip sheets
- A user-friendly website and online community
- The People for Education Annual Conference, featuring workshops and panels delivered by a unique combination of education experts and experienced parents
- An active provincial network of parents and community organizations

COMMUNICATIONS

- A bi-monthly newsletter and regular listserv
- An ongoing media strategy to engage the public in conversations about public education
- Informative and engaging speakers for meetings and conferences

POLICY

- An independent voice at Ministry of Education policy tables
- Policy recommendations developed cooperatively with parents, experts and community partners
- Partnerships with policy-makers to ensure Ontario's schools are the best they can be

PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ONTARIO SCHOOLS 2009



ONTARIO'S SCHOOLS IN 2009

Each year, People for Education publishes a report on Ontario's publicly-funded schools.

The report includes information and data from our annual survey of schools, from the Ministry of Education, Statistics Canada, the Canadian Council on Learning and the OECD. We examine everything from class sizes, to test scores, to music programs, and we report on what we find.

This brochure contains a brief synopsis of the information in the Annual Report.

Join us!

- Do you care about public education?
- Are you working to make your school the hub of your community?
- Do you have ideas that you think should be part of a renewed vision for education in the 21st century?

You can join our online community to participate in dynamic dialogues about the potential in education. Or host a Schools at the Centre group in your community. Or become a member of People for Education.

Together, we can make public education great!
www.peopleforeducation.com

WHY EDUCATION MATTERS MOST

Strong, accessible public schools linked to strong communities promote a sense of common cause and societal cohesion and provide every student with an equitable opportunity to develop the imagination, the skills, and the sense of citizenship necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century. They are an essential component of democratic life, of inclusive communities and of a civil society.

People for Education is funded by the generous support of individuals and school councils, donations from a number of businesses, and grants from the Atkinson Foundation, the Canadian Autoworkers, the RBC Financial Group, TD Bank, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Ministry of Education.

People for Education is a registered charity: #85719 0532 RR0001

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

Class size

- 98% of kindergarten to Grade 3 classes have 25 students or fewer, an improvement from 89% in 2005.

Student success

- 91% of Ontario elementary students passed provincial reading, writing and math tests in Grade 3 and 6.
- Ontario has more university graduates as a percentage of the population than any other province in Canada.
- Ontario 13-year-olds came first among all the provinces in national math, reading and writing tests, and second in science.

High school course choices

- 95% of high schools offer hands-on courses.

School councils

- There are over 100,000 volunteers working in Ontario's schools.
- 75% of school councils are actively working to enhance communication between the school and parents.

Special education

- Since 2003, there has been a 29% decline in the total number of students on waiting lists for special education services or support.

Public Confidence

- 94.3% of Ontario students go to public schools, a percentage that has remained relatively steady over the last decade.

WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Fundraising, fees and volunteers

- The percentage of elementary schools raising more than \$20,000 per year has more than doubled since 2001.
- 63% of secondary schools charge fees for labs and course materials, 54% of charge fees for art classes and 23% charge fees for music classes.

Libraries, reading and literacy

- Students in elementary schools with teacher-librarians are more likely to report they like to read.
- Only 55% of elementary schools have a teacher-librarian, most of them part-time, compared to 80% in 1998.

Design and Technology

- 7% of schools with Grades 7&8 have a Design and Technology teacher, compared to 22% in 1998.

Declining Enrolment

- At least 146 Ontario schools are closing or recommended to close over the next two years—mainly due to declining enrolment.

English as a Second Language

- 49% of elementary schools and 29% of secondary schools with ESL students have no ESL teacher.

The Arts

- 46% of elementary schools have a Music teacher, compared to 58% in 1998.

Physical Education

- 40% of elementary schools have a Physical Education teacher, compared to 41% in 1998.

