

PIAC POST

SUPPORTING PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

APRIL 2019 | VOL 18-19 | ISSUE 5 (SPECIAL EDITION: CHANGES TO PUBLIC EDUCATION)

In response to the many questions PIAC has received from parents about the proposed Provincial Government education cuts, we have put together some information on what has happened to date and resources on how you can have your say.

PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5 April: Bill 48, the Safe and Supportive Classrooms Act, 2019 passed. This amends the Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996 (OCTA); the Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007 (ECEA); Teaching Profession Act (TPA); and the Education Act (<http://bit.ly/2v4lDnJ>)
- 4 April: Ministry statement on the Government of Ontario Protecting and Sustaining Education (<http://bit.ly/2v4lDnJ>)
- 2 April: Joint Ministry announcement that the Province will launch public consultations in May 2019 through an online survey and telephone town halls on supporting children and youth with autism (<http://bit.ly/2lIHZJD>)
- 15 March: Announcement about 'Back-to-Basics' Math Curriculum, Renewed Focus on Skilled Trades and Cellphone Ban in the Classroom (<http://bit.ly/2Vnm8Wv>)
- 11 March: Announcement on A Plan for Students with Autism, a program designed to move more children with ASD into schools (<http://bit.ly/2Ui2i2F>)
- 6 February: Announcement on action to help more families with autism (<http://bit.ly/2WOCQyf>)
- 2 February: Ministry confirms retention of full-day kindergarten for 4 and 5 year-olds across the Province
- 29 January: Announcement on proposed amendments to the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) and the Education Act. Child Care and Early Years programs (<http://bit.ly/2Vnldp1>)
- 23 January: Consultation starts with education labour partners on teacher/administration mobility, class sizes, and hiring and interviewing practices (<http://bit.ly/2le77mf>)

UNDERSTANDING EDUCATION CUTS IN THE TDSB

For a summary of what changes to Ontario education funding and policy will look like across the Province, visit People 4 Education (<https://peopleforeducation.ca/>) at <http://bit.ly/2WHs4K8>.

- 2 April: Chair of the Board writes to the Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, re reduction of teaching positions and funding (15 March announcement) (<http://bit.ly/2WQxG4Q>)
- 21 March: TDSB Director of Education and Chair of the Board's statements to the Board re classroom sizes and loss of ~\$20 million for the TDSB's 2019-20 budget (<http://bit.ly/2G7Ro6E>)
- 12 March: Analysis of the announcement re changes in autism funding and transitions to TDSB schools (<http://bit.ly/2Gg75su>)
- 12 March: Response to parents re changes in autism funding and transitions to TDSB schools (<http://bit.ly/2VvCufL>)
- 22 December: TDSB analysis of the \$381,110 cuts to Education Program Other (EPO). Some of the affected programs include Literacy Gap Closing, Experiential Learning, Techno Learning, and Managing Information for Student Achievement (<http://bit.ly/2Gb6CYE>)
- 14 December: TDSB analysis of the \$744,500 cuts to Specialized Program Grants. Some of the affected programs include Focus on Youth After School Program, Tutors in the Classroom Program, and Indigenous Focused Professional Development (<http://bit.ly/2G9ORca>)
- Other changes that will affect students of the TDSB: Mandatory e-learning courses for high school students (4 courses), banning of cellphone use during instructional time

#HAVEYOURSAY: WHAT CAN WE DO?

DOWNLOAD THE SCHOOL-BASED ACTION KIT

- <http://bit.ly/2G1XPIH>

CONTACT YOUR MPP

- Current list of MPPs: <http://bit.ly/2YMUCE9>

CONTACT THE GOVERNMENT

- Minister of Education Lisa Thompson (minister.thompson@ontario.ca 416-325-2600)
- Premier Doug Ford (doug.ford@pc.ola.org 416-325-1941).

JOIN A PARENT ACTION NETWORK/GROUP OR FOLLOW THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA


- Building Better Schools (www.buildingbetterschools.ca)
- Campaign for Public Education (Facebook, Twitter, campaignforpubliceducation.ca)
- Coalition for a Fair Ontario (Facebook)
- East End Parents 4 Public Education (Facebook)
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) (Twitter, www.etfo.ca)
- Etobicoke Parent Network (Facebook)
- Fix Our Schools (Facebook, Twitter, www.fixourschools.ca)
- GTA Parent Action Network for Public Education (Facebook)
- GTA School Councils (formerly TDSB School Councils) (Facebook)
- Mothers for Better Education – Ontario (Facebook)
- Ontario Families for Public Education (Facebook)
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) (Facebook, www.osstf.on.ca)
- Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) (Facebook, Twitter, www.torontopiac.com)
- Parents for Diversity (Facebook, Twitter, www.parentsfordiversity.com)
- Scarborough Parents Network: Defending Public Education (Facebook)
- Toronto Public School Councils (Facebook)
- West End Parents for Public Education Toronto (Facebook, www.weppe.org)

PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION

- On changes to Ontario education funding and policy: <http://bit.ly/2WHs4K8>
- Report on technology in Ontario's schools: <http://bit.ly/2ImMaFU>

The PIAC POST is intended for information purposes only.

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