

2025 Provincial Election Platforms - Key Education Issues

Updated on: February 25, 2025

The following chart is based on information provided by the main political parties and public announcements they have made during the campaign. The chart will be updated as new announcements are made and party platforms are released.

* The Progressive Conservative Party released its platform on February 24, 2025. The platform included only few education-related details. This comparison also takes into account the government record prior to the election campaign.

Issue	PC Party*	Ontario NDP	Ontario Liberal Party	Green Party of Ontario
Education Funding	For 2024-2025, public schools are receiving \$1,500 less per student compared to 2018, when the Ford government was first elected. This is equivalent to \$3.2 billion in cuts for the 2024-2025 school year.	Reverse the Ford government's \$1,500 per-student funding cut and conduct a comprehensive review of education funding. Invest in French school boards and French immersion programs in the English system. Fix the student transportation funding formula to ensure students can get to and from school safely.	Close the funding gap of \$1,500 per-student in the K-12 system and ensure future funding commitments match inflation.	Immediately increase per-student funding by \$1,500 to make up for the \$3.1 billion in cuts by the Ford government since 2018. Establish an independent review of Ontario's education funding formula so it adequately reflects student needs, and review the formula every five years. Ensure the updated formula takes into account the unique needs of remote and rural schools.
Class Size	In its first year in government, implemented class size averages for grades 4 to 8 of 24.5 and increased average class sizes for high school from 22 to 24.	Reverse PC government's cuts to education funding that have led to larger class sizes.	Establish a lower student-to-teacher ratio.	Cap class sizes at 24 for grades 4 to 8. Cap class sizes at 26 for Kindergarten and ensure the class is staffed with a full-time certified teacher and a designated early childhood educator.
Staffing, Retention and Recruitment	The PC government's funding cuts have resulted in a staffing crisis in many school boards across the province. The PC government has not addressed the teacher and educator recruitment and retention crisis facing the province.	Hire more staff in schools. Dedicated teachers, educational assistants, child and youth workers, designated early childhood educators, custodial and trade workers.	Hiring additional mental health professionals, educational assistants, child and youth workers, and other education workers. Lower the ratio of students to education workers in Core Education Funding. Hiring additional French educators. Increase the number of trained Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) by offering them a living wage and opportunities to grow professionally. Waive tuition for targeted academic programs that address shortages of specialized teachers and educators. Re-introduce a one-year teaching degree to increase the number of certified teachers.	Fund staffing models to reduce class sizes and provide necessary student supports.

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Special Education	Under the PC government special education funding has flatlined despite the increase in need for additional supports.	<p>Review the funding model to focus on student needs to support vulnerable students.</p> <p>Ensure the public education system gives students with disabilities the support they deserve.</p>	Clear the special education-related wait lists and assessment backlogs and ensure students have access to the resources and support to meet their needs.	<p>Ensure an updated funding formula has adequate funding for special education assistants, counsellors, social workers, ESL teachers, and other supports to provide equitable access to learning and school activities for all students.</p> <p>Allocate funds to ensure schools are able to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).</p>
Addressing Violence in Schools	Under the PC government, violence in schools has increased in frequency and severity.	Hire more staff in schools including teachers, educational assistants, child and youth workers, ECEs, etc. Having more caring adults in schools makes them safer for everyone.	Provide more students with access to qualified staff, including mental health professionals, educational assistants, child and youth workers, and other staff by hiring more education workers.	<p>Create a multi-stakeholder Safety and Wellbeing at School Action Table mandated to develop a comprehensive plan to address violence in schools.</p> <p>Expand funding and eligibility for safe school grants to allow school boards to hire additional qualified staff.</p> <p>Create a sector-specific regulation for the education sector under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.</p>
School Infrastructure	<p>The Financial Accountability Office of Ontario (FAO) estimates that it would cost \$31.4 billion over 10 years to clear the school infrastructure backlog. The PC government's 10-year capital plan contained in the 2024 budget allocates a total of \$18.7 billion, resulting in a shortfall of \$12.7 billion.</p> <p>Invest \$1.3 billion more to build 30 new schools and 15 school expansions across Ontario.</p>	Invest an additional \$830 million per year to clear the repair backlog within 10 years while keeping up with school maintenance needs.	<p>Double the annual capital funding for schools to clear the school repair backlog and install heating, air conditioning, and air filtration systems that meet the highest health and safety standards.</p> <p>Build 90 new schools over the next four years and ensure that no school needs to use portables.</p>	<p>Speed up reducing the school repair backlog and work in consultation with school boards to adopt a Standard of Good Repair.</p> <p>Provide funding for schools to make energy efficiency and ventilation improvements.</p>
Support for Student and Educator Mental Health	While the PC government made some investments in student mental health these have been insufficient and outpaced by increased need. Subsequent funding cuts to public schools have negatively impacted the mental health of students and educators and reduced access to mental health supports in schools.	Increase in-school support by hiring more staff in schools including child and youth workers, educational assistants and other education workers.	Provide more students with access to qualified staff, including mental health professionals.	Provide funding to school boards to ensure students and educators have access to mental health support, when and where they need it.

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Building Inclusive Schools	<p>The PC government cancelled Indigenous curriculum writing sessions, cut funding for the anti-racism directorate, and rolled back the Health and Physical Education Curriculum immediately after taking office.</p> <p>Ended academic streaming for Grade 9 courses beginning in September 2022.</p>	End the practice of streaming and make sure we are using data to support more equitable schools.	<i>No campaign announcements made on this area at the time of drafting.</i>	Provide enhanced funding for de-streaming, including reduced class sizes, dedicated education workers, training, planning time, and resources.
Assessment and EQAO	The PC government implemented experimental digital EQAO tests for students in grades 3 and 6 despite opposition from education stakeholders.	<i>No campaign announcements made on EQAO at time of drafting.</i>	<i>No campaign announcements made on EQAO at the time of drafting.</i>	Eliminate EQAO standardised testing.
Respect for Educators	The PC government changed the governance structure of the Ontario College of Teachers effectively ending self-regulation of the teaching profession.	Continue to work in collaboration with educators and the unions that represent them.	<p>Commit to mutual respect and collaboration between the Ministry of Education, students, parents, teachers, unions and administrators.</p> <p>Negotiate fair wages for teachers and education workers through free and fair collective bargaining processes.</p>	<p>Establish an Education Task Force that includes education workers and students. The task force will provide input on education policy and funding models, and help to address critical issues, such as staff shortages and the design of special education supports and programs.</p> <p>Invest in increased, quality professional development opportunities for educators.</p>
Student Nutrition	In November 2024, the governments of Ontario and Canada announced an expansion of the student nutrition program with a federal investment of \$108.5M over three years.	<p>Create a universal School Food Program so that every child in Ontario is set up to succeed.</p> <p>Expand current in-school nutrition programs and used fresh food grown and prepared in Ontario.</p>	<i>No campaign announcements made regarding student nutrition at time of drafting.</i>	Immediately double the number of students that can access the Student Nutrition Programs and expand it to be province-wide by 2030.