



# District 28 Update

- District 28's Electronic Newsletter

April  
2019

*Protecting and enhancing public education since 1919*

## Speak Truth to Power!

As I write this, students across this province are preparing for perhaps one of the largest coordinated protests in Canadian history because they understand the devastating impact of the government's recent announcements. This Saturday, 165 buses (2 from Renfrew County) will descend on Queen's Park to protest those same announcements.

Education workers get it, and the students get it – these protests and rallies are one of the tools that we need to employ to make sure that the general public “gets it” as well. The government tries to distract the public with announcements about cell phone bans, math tests for teachers, and new license plate slogans while they cut a billion dollars from our education system – potentially destroying one of the best systems in the world.

We need to keep speaking truth to power. Provincial OSSTF has a campaign “Here for Students”, and strategies that they have been developing for months and which have started to be rolled out. I will continue to speak to John Yakabuski, local media, trustees, and anyone else I can to speak to about the changes that are being imposed by the Conservative government.

Provincial OSSTF and local leaders like me, on our own, are not going to make the government change its direction. The most critical thing our members can do to make a difference is to speak their truth to everyone they can. You need to talk to friends, family

and community members. Wear your “No Cuts to Education” button. (It has started many conversations for me!) Engage in conversations on social media, over the backyard fence, at hockey games, on the front step at church, at parent council meetings, at the gym, at the Lions Club meeting etc..... We have seen the impact that public push back has had on this government. They have backtracked on announced changes to the Green Belt development, Health Curriculum, Kindergarten class sizes and Autism funding.

## Speak Your Truth

Some members have expressed concerns that they may say the wrong things. I think you need to speak from your own experience, where possible, about how the proposed changes will impact our schools and students' ability to learn. I am going to attach some documents and bullet points you can refer to when having those conversations, but the ONE THING TO FOCUS ON IS THAT WE NEED TO STOP THE PROPOSED CHANGES BECAUSE THEY HURT THE STUDENTS OF THIS PROVINCE!

Please check out – the [HEREFORSTUDENTS](http://HEREFORSTUDENTS) website!

Things we know:

- 28:1 is a staffing generator and will not mean that classes will now have 28 kids
- Our Board is set to reduce staffing levels by over 20 secondary teaching positions for next year
- Our Board will lose 45 to 60 secondary teaching positions over the next 4 years

- Fewer teachers mean fewer course offerings for students (300 fewer courses in our Board)
- Fewer teachers mean fewer coaches and clubs
- Fewer teachers mean less support available to enhance learning and less supervision of students in our buildings
- eLearning is not for every student
- We are not sure how many support staff will be lost at this time, but we expect cuts.

## Trinity Poil

Trinity, the student from Valour, has still not been found, I am going to keep including her poster in all newsletters until she is found. We will not give up.

## How to Save Money on Your Home and Auto Insurance

It's important to have enough coverage on your home and auto policies so you can get back to where you started in the event of a total loss – but that doesn't mean you should be paying more than you have to. There are a number of factors that can reduce the cost of your insurance, some of which could save you hundreds of dollars. Visit [www.otipinsurance.com/article37](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article37) to discover home and auto insurance savings and discount options that you may be eligible for.

## RedforEd T-Shirts New Price!

<https://goo.gl/forms/vuyAB8TN2U16e2Th1>

This Google form is still open for t-shirt orders. Shirts will now only be \$5, down from \$7.50!! Shirts will be delivered at the end of the month!

(Those attending the Rally at Queen's park will get a free shirt.)

## WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CHANGES MEAN

- The government's plan will fund staffing at a ratio of 28:1 rather than 22:1
- The plan will also force all students to attain four credits through e-learning programs, at a ratio of 35:1
- The combined impact will be the removal of one in every four teaching positions in Ontario's high schools, and the removal of more than 700 million dollars from the secondary system
- The data is clear that larger classes are more difficult learning environments, and student achievement levels will be negatively affected
- The increase in class size ratios will mean that individual students will receive significantly less attention from their teachers
- Increased class sizes will lead to higher dropout rates
- The reduction in staff and in the number of classes means reduced student access to guidance counsellors, librarians, educational assistants, therapists, psychologists, social workers
- Programs that require smaller classes, such as special education classes and technology programs, will be at risk
- Fewer teachers means less volunteers to run extra-curriculars such as sports, arts programs, concerts

- E-learning is not for every student. While some students can benefit from this type of learning, many students are not able to succeed without the structure of a classroom and the support, encouragement and oversight of a teacher who is present with them on a daily basis

## WHAT CAN PARENTS and CONCERNED CITIZENS DO?

Government consultations are open until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Email

[EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca](mailto:EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca)

and email your MPP, the Premier and the Minister of Education:

- John Yakabuski MPP, Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke  
[john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org](mailto:john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org)
- Doug Ford Premier, Ontario  
[doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org)
- Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education  
[lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org)

Click this link,

<https://www.hereforstudents.ca/>

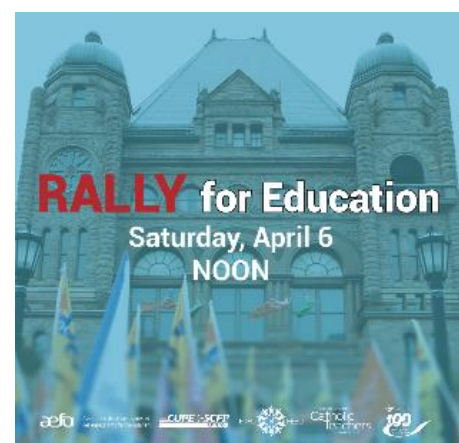
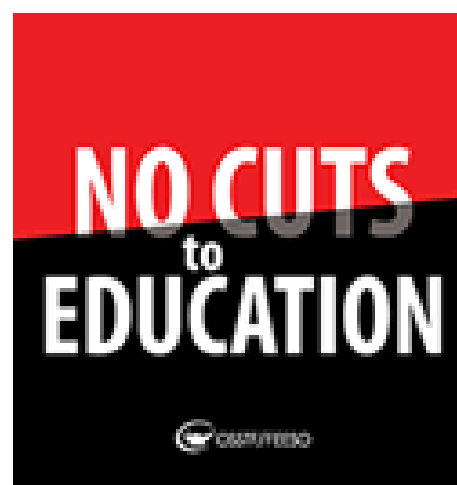
or type it into your browser to send a formatted letter by email to your MPP. All you need to do is scroll down to "Cuts Create Crowded Classrooms" and then click "Send A Letter Now". Follow the instructions on the page. This will take no longer than two minutes of your time.

28:1 is a funding model, so classes will be much larger than 28. We know that this will be detrimental to student learning, student choice in classes and the ability of

teachers to build positive learning relationships with their students.

The government has already backed down on the HPE (sex ed.) curriculum, the Green Belt, and the funding for autism therapy because of public pressure. We are all in this together: parents, educators, citizens, and we need to keep up the pressure for full funding of public education.

In Solidarity! - Jeff







# THE TRUTH

on education cuts



On March 15, 2019, the Ministry announced devastating cuts to Ontario's public education system. However thus far, they have refused to provide any details or formulas for those changes, and we are unable to project the final impact at this time. The following are minimum estimates of the impact of these cuts.

## THE PUPIL FOUNDATION GRANT

The pupil foundation grant, in part, funds classroom teachers. The intermediate senior portion of this grant was cut by 20%. This cut includes moving average class sizes from 22:1 to 28:1 in Ontario public high schools and 35:1 for e-learning classes.

This will result in the removal of over 5,700 OSSTF/FEESO secondary school teacher positions, which will result in the removal of over 34,000 classes. To put this in context, one in every four classes would be eliminated from Ontario's secondary schools. This will also necessitate the removal of student course choice as school boards will be forced to cancel programs to meet these cuts. The Education Minister keeps repeating that, "no one will lose their job" and this may be true in terms of actual layoffs, but our students will lose their teachers through attrition and leaves.

## SECONDARY PROGRAMMING GRANT

Also included in this cut is the removal of the Secondary Programming Grant. This grant was for staffing that was originally negotiated to provide extra supports for students through the hiring of student success teachers. These teachers work with our most vulnerable students on a day-to-day basis and contribute to Ontario's high graduation rate.

## LOCAL PRIORITIES FUND

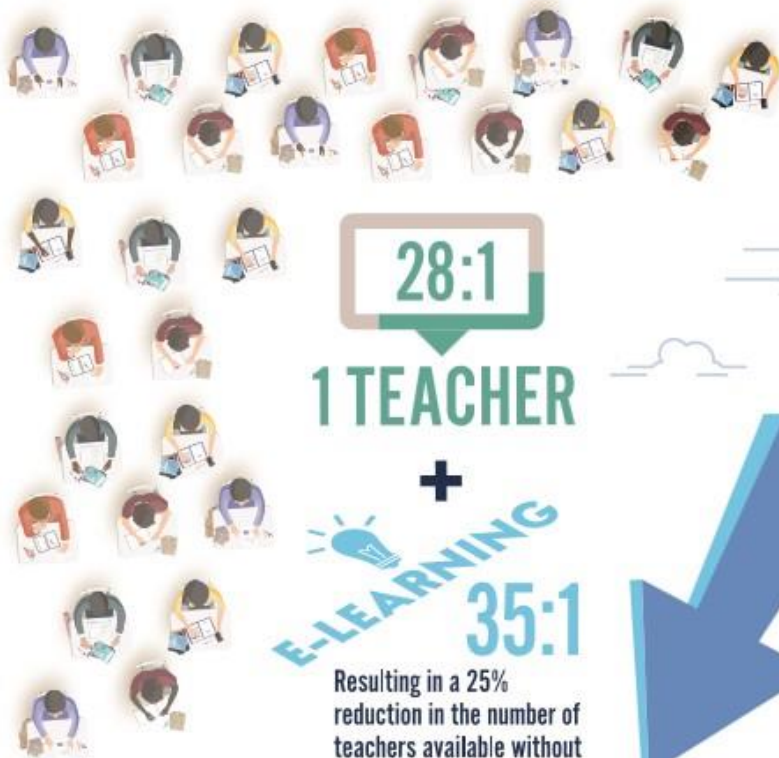
Also ending in August is the Local Priorities Fund. This allowed for the hiring of 219 teachers of which 91 were earmarked for special education. This represents a total of 1314 classes that will have to be closed of which 546 were in the area of special education.

Included in the Local Priorities Fund are support staff positions in the range of 298 to 354 members. Again 186 to 242 of these positions were to be used exclusively in Special Education. They provide essential supports for these students to be able to succeed in high school. These positions would include: educational assistants, social workers, behavioural assistants, and ABA trained staff among others. OSSTF/FEESO negotiated these positions in response to the need in the system for more support for our students.

There were numerous other cuts that were announced on March 15, that we cannot calculate the exact impact of yet. Of greatest concern are the removal of \$36.1 million from the Cost Adjustment Allocation and the adjustment to the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant. School Boards will be forced to make even deeper cuts of support staff to make up for this cut.

# HOW FORD'S CUTS

will impact our publicly-funded school system



28:1

1 TEACHER

+

E-LEARNING  
35:1

Resulting in a 25% reduction in the number of teachers available without removing a single student.

=

A change that would result in over **\$700 MILLION** in known cuts to secondary education.

How will this impact our students?

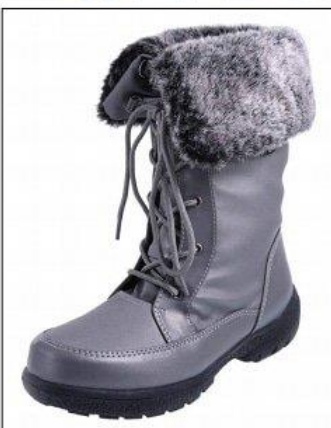
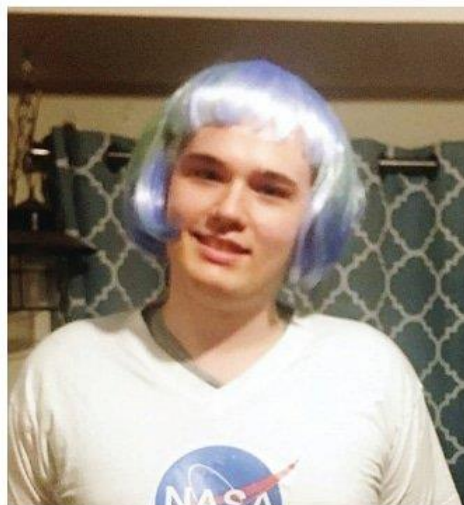
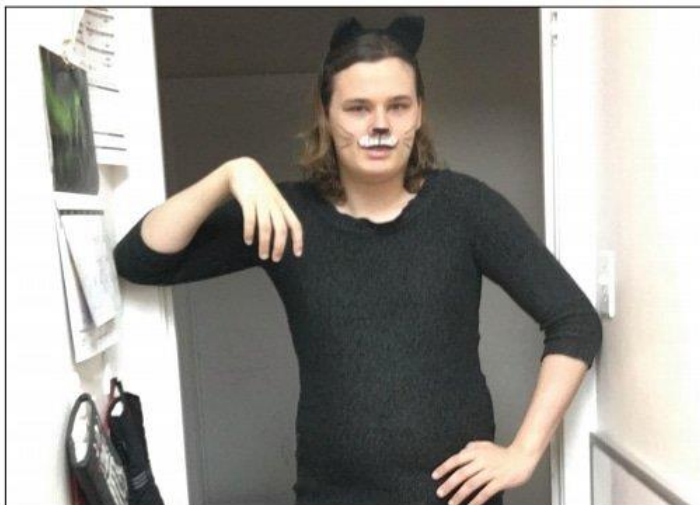
- LESS AVAILABLE TIME FOR EACH STUDENT
- FEWER ADULTS IN OUR SCHOOLS
- CROWDED CLASSROOMS
- CLOSING OF PROGRAMS

Moving the funding of the average class size in Ontario's secondary schools from 22 students up to 28 students for every 1 secondary teacher and e-learning funded at 35:1 will result in the **CUTTING OF OVER 1/4 OF CURRENT CLASSES** from the system.



# MISSING

## Trinity Poil



6'1" approx 240lbs brown hair and hazel eyes. Last seen wearing a black jacket with purple lining, a black toque with cat ears and grey boots with fur trim. Believed to have left her home on Cleve between 10pm and 4:20am Feb 12/13 2019. If you have seen her or know anything about her whereabouts, please contact the military police or provincial police. Her family is very concerned about her safety and well being.

**Please call the Petawawa OPP to report at 613-735-0188 or the Petawawa Military Police at 613-687-5511 ext. 5444.**

Do you know a student  
who could use an extra  
\$1,500 for tuition?

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**WIN**  
a bursary  
from OTIP!

If you're insured with OTIP and you or one of your relatives (e.g. child, step-child, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, spouse, etc.) will be a full- or part-time post-secondary student in the upcoming academic year, enter online for the chance to win a bursary from OTIP.

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OSSTF District 28 Renfrew is now  
on Facebook – come and join our  
group!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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