People for Education

The new basics for public education

People for Education annual report on Ontario's publicly funded schools 2018

The new basics for public education

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Data from the survey

Specific research data from the survey can be provided for a fee. Elementary school data have been collected since 1997, and secondary school data have been collected since 2000. For more information, please contact info@peopleforeducation.ca.

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Quick facts

School administration

- 21% of elementary schools have at least one full-time vice-principal (VP) and 25% have a part-time VP.
- Only 9% of elementary and 13% of secondary principals rank supporting professional learning and improving the instructional program as the task they spend the most time on.

Guidance counsellors

- 20% of elementary and 26% of secondary schools report that the most time-consuming part of their guidance counsellor's job is providing one-on-one counselling to students for mental health needs.
- Among secondary schools with guidance counsellors, the average ratio of students to guidance counsellors is 396:1. In 10% of schools, this average jumps to 826:1.

Special education

- An average of 17% of students per elementary school and 27% per secondary school receives special education support.
- 66% of elementary schools and 53% of secondary schools report a restriction on the number of students that can be assessed for special education each year—a trend that has been increasing among elementary school over the years.
- 92% of urban elementary schools have a full-time special education teacher, compared to 72% of rural elementary schools.

Physical and mental health

- 94% of elementary schools and 100% of secondary schools report collaborating with mental health care services.
- 39% of elementary schools have a full-time health and physical education (H&PE) teacher, up from 18% in 1998.
- 62% of urban elementary schools have H&PE teachers, compared to 39% of rural elementary schools.

Indigenous education

- 74% of elementary and 84% of secondary schools offer at least one Indigenous learning opportunity.
- 21% of elementary and 46% of secondary schools have at least one self-identified Indigenous person on staff.
- 87% of elementary schools with an Indigenous staff member have at least one Indigenous education opportunity, compared to 67% of schools without an Indigenous staff member.

Arts education

- 46% of elementary schools report having a specialist music teacher, either full- or part-time, up from 41% last year.
- Elementary schools with higher proportions of parents who have graduated from university are twice as likely to have a specialist music teacher as schools with lower proportions.

Childcare

- Of the schools with kindergarten, the percentage reporting on-site childcare for kindergarten-aged children has increased from 47% in 2012 to 80% in 2018—an all-time high in the history of the survey.
- 90% of elementary schools with a higher proportion of parents who have graduated from university offer childcare, compared to only 66% of schools with lower proportions of university-educated parents.
- The percentage of schools with Family Support Programs dropped from 36% in 2015, to 28% in 2018.

Beyond the school walls: connecting to community supports

- 19% of elementary schools and 18% of secondary schools report that they have a staff member (other than the principal or vice-principal) acting as a community liaison, a drop from 20% and 34% respectively in 2011.
- · Elementary schools in urban areas are more likely to have a community liaison than those in rural areas.

Public education in Ontario can take a leading role in the international movement to target critical areas of student development, including health, citizenship, creativity, and social-emotional learning, but it will require a commitment to providing the required resources and policy to both support and integrate these vital areas of learning across the curriculum and in the day-to-day lives of schools. It will also require concrete commitments and resource allocations to ensure that all students—no matter what their family income. their parents' education, their ethnicity or race, or where they live in the province-have access to a broad range of learning opportunities that provide an equitable chance for long-term success, in school and in life. These are the new basics for public education.

People for Education

Introduction

Ontario's public education system is one of the most successful systems in the world. Whether measured by provincial, national, or international standards, and whether the assessment measures 15-year olds in science or 8-year olds in reading, Ontario's public education system is doing very well in teaching students the basics.

In 2015, only six out of 72 jurisdictions ranked higher than Ontario on international assessments in science (EQAO, 2016). Results from the 2016 Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) showed that 89% of Ontario's grade 8 students performed at the expected proficiency for reading, and Ontario was the only province that performed above the Canadian average in both *interpreting text* and *critically responding* to text (CMEC, 2016). Provincially, over 90% of grade 3 and 6 students demonstrate required knowledge and skills in reading and writing (EQAO, 2017a), while over 90% of grade 3 and 79% of grade 6 students demonstrate the required knowledge and skills in mathematics (EQAO, 2017b).

By any large-scale performance measure of the basics, Ontario's public education system is doing well. But what about the rest of what public education promises to deliver? Are we providing students with all of the resources and supports they need to thrive—now and into the future?

In response to this year's Annual Ontario School Survey, principals told us that they love their jobs and their school communities, but that they also feel stretched—working long hours with limited resources to meet the needs of their students.

This year's report is based on survey results from 1244 schools in 70 of Ontario's 72 school boards. Three key issues emerged:

- Students' mental health is a clear area of concern for schools. Principals note limited access to guidance counsellors, educational assistants, psychologists, and other mental health professionals, and express concern about their capacity to address growing mental health needs among students. While the newly revised health curriculum and Ontario's Wellbeing Strategy are valuable resources to support students' mental health, long-term change will require recognizing the benefits of mental health promotion, integrating social-emotional and health competencies across the curriculum, and providing adequate resources and capacity-building for staff to support both themselves and their students.
- 2. Indigenous education is reaching new heights in building awareness and opportunities for all students to learn about Indigenous culture and history, but Indigenous students continue to struggle. To address the gaps for Indigenous students, it is time to work with Indigenous leaders and scholars to find new ways of defining school success beyond the 3R's, and to integrate Indigenous perspectives on success—a balance between the intellectual, the physical, the emotional, and the spiritual—into the public education system.

3. An analysis of information from Statistics Canada and Ontario's Ministry of Education, alongside the survey results, shows that access to things like childcare and arts enrichment, is affected by where a student lives, their family's income, and the education level of their parents. This gap must be addressed in order to ensure that all students have an equitable chance for success.

Public education in Ontario can take a leading role in the international movement to target critical areas of student development, including health, citizenship, creativity, and social-emotional learning, but it will require a commitment to providing the required resources and policy to both support and integrate these vital areas of learning across the curriculum and in the day-to-day lives of schools. It will also require concrete commitments and resource allocations to ensure that *all* students—no matter what their family income, their parents' education, their ethnicity or race, or where they live in the province—have access to a broad range of learning opportunities that provide an equitable chance for long-term success, in school and in life. These are the new basics for public education.

School administration

In 2018:

- 21% of elementary schools have at least one full-time vice-principal (VP) and 25% have a part-time VP.
- 85% of secondary schools have at least one full-time VP and 8% have only a parttime VP.
- 50% of elementary schools in urban areas report having a vice-principal, full- or parttime, compared to 39% of those in rural areas.
- 23% of elementary principals without a VP ranked managing facilities as their most time-consuming task, compared to 19% of those with a full-time VP.
- 7% of elementary principals rank managing staff as their most time-consuming task, compared to 27% of secondary principals.
- Only 9% of elementary and 13% of secondary principals ranked supporting professional learning and improving the instructional program as the task they spend the most time on.

The principal's role can be extremely challenging. They are expected to lead school improvement and instruction efforts, attend to individual student needs, support implementation of Ministry and school board initiatives, support special education programs and students, supervise staff and human resources, attend to school facilities, and communicate with parents and the community (Pollock, 2017; McCarthy, 2016).

Recent research from Western University found that principals in Ontario work an average of 59 hours per week (Pollock, 2014, p. 15), and vice-principals work an average of 55 hours (Pollock, 2017, p. 11).

Despite the many challenges, the principals responding to this year's survey remain positive, commenting about helpful and collaborative staff, good community relations, and positive school climates.

In order to understand more about Ontario principals' work, we asked them to rank the following seven tasks in terms of how much time they take (see Figures 1.1 and 1.2):

- Managing staff (human resources functions and collective agreement implementation)
- Managing individual student issues
- Provincial and board/system initiatives (communications, documentation, meetings related to policy and programs, etc.)
- Supporting professional learning and improving the instructional program
- Community and parent relationships
- Managing facilities
- Completing the School Improvement Plan (SIP)

I love my job. Working with parents is huge—can be rewarding but also the most challenging. I feel if the teachers are happy and receiving the appropriate amount of PD and School Improvement Planning communication, I seem to have to deal with less individual student issues. Having a strong resource team is key.

Elementary school, Ottawa Catholic DSB

Figure 1.1 Elementary principals' most time-consuming tasks



School management vs. professional learning

Principals are required to oversee both the quality of education in the school (including professional learning for staff, improving the instructional program, etc.) and the management of the school itself (administrative tasks). According to one elementary principal, "Over the past few years, the school administration role has changed from one of instructional leader, a supporter of students and staff, to a managerial role."¹

Only a small proportion of principals (9% of elementary and 13% of secondary schools) report that their most time-consuming task is supporting professional learning and improving the instructional program. This is consistent with recent research showing an overload of administrative work for principals in schools across Canada (Alberta Teachers' Association, 2014; Leithwood & Azah, 2014).

We spend so much time managing significant mental health issues with students, and managing staff and facility issues, that I never feel we can move ahead with the student learning agenda.

Secondary school, Limestone DSB

When I am able to focus on professional learning with teaching staff, we see a direct influence on student engagement and achievement.

Elementary school, York Region DSB

1. Comment from an elementary school in Avon Maitland DSB

There are way too many managerial and day-to-day running-of-the-school tasks that professional learning and instructional programming is left to the last, and done superficially, and not as good as it could be.

Secondary school, Simcoe County DSB

[It is] very challenging to balance the principal role. The needs of our students are becoming increasingly complex. Mental health issues have been more prominent in our day-to-day dealings, with minimal support and limited expertise in the building.

Elementary school, Durham DSB

Figure 1.2

Supporting individual students

In this year's survey, one of the most urgent issues raised by principals is students' increasing mental health needs. It is unclear whether this is a result of increased awareness of mental illness (e.g. Bell Canada, 2015), increased incidence (e.g. Cribb, Ovid, Lao, & Bigham, 2017), reduced stigma (e.g. Chai & Nicolas, 2017), other factors, or a combination of these. Many principals also comment that student behavioural issues require a great deal of their time.

Schools are addressing these issues on a daily basis, adding complexity to the role of educators in our communities. Principals report that existing mental health resources such as social workers, psychologists, and guidance counsellors, are insufficient to meet students' needs, and that mental health issues are taking up an increasing amount of their time and resources.

In 2018, the province announced funding for mental health workers in secondary schools. These workers will be introduced into schools gradually over the next two years (Office of the Premier, 2018).



Secondary principals' most time-consuming tasks

The urban-rural divide

There is a marked difference between urban and rural elementary schools in the proportion of principals who say they spend the most time managing individual student issues (see Figure 1.3). This may be partly attributable to the presence of vice-principals (VPs). Elementary schools in urban areas are more likely to have a VP, and over twice as likely to have a full-time VP, than those in rural areas. Similar trends are seen in secondary schools.

The demands of paperwork and HR

A common concern raised by principals is that demands from the board/ Ministry, and the accompanying paperwork and emails, take up a large portion of their time. Some principals feel that, in order to keep up, they either have to work extremely long hours or lose opportunities to be instructional leaders.

Hiring staff—including teaching, administrative, and support staff—is also a significant challenge for principals. Several principals report being understaffed and short of resources to complete the various administration tasks that keep schools running.

Managing daily student behaviour issues...and making related necessary parent contacts, consumes so much of the principal's working day that curriculum leadership and leading the improvement of instructional programming and other board/Ministry initiatives is severely compromised.

Elementary school, Avon Maitland DSB

Being alone in management, meeting with parents and students is a task that requires a lot of time and energy. The integration of students with special education needs into regular classes requires management of human resources on a daily basis.²

Elementary school, Conseil des écoles catholique du Centre-Est

Figure 1.3



Percentage of principals reporting that they spend the most time managing student issues

2. Translated from French. Original comment: "Étant seule à la direction, l'accueil des parents et des élèves est une tâche qui demande beaucoup de temps et d'énergie. L'intégration des élèves en difficulté dans les classes régulières demande une gestion des resssources humaines sur une base quotidienne."



Secondary school, Peel DSB

Too much time dedicated to paperwork that could be better dedicated to pedagogy.³

Elementary school, Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir

Vice-principals provide support

Vice-principals are a central part of the school's leadership team. Under the Education Act, the role is vaguely defined as duties and responsibilities assigned by the principal to the vice-principal (Education Act, RRO, 1990). The vice-principal works with the school principal in all aspects of leading and managing the school, and is often responsible for managing student discipline issues and special education.

Having a vice-principal has an impact on how principals spend their time. Elementary schools with at least one full-time VP are more likely to report that the principal spends the most time improving the instructional program and completing the School Improvement Plan (SIP) (see Figure 1.4).

Principals from elementary schools with at least one full-time VP are also less likely to spend the most time on management of staff, individual student issues, or facilities (see Figure 1.5).

Figure 1.4 Impact of VPs on principals' time leading the instructional program



3. Translated from French. Original comment: "Beaucoup trop de temps dédié à la paperasse qui pourrait être mieux dédié à la pédagogie."

Figure 1.5

Impact of VPs on principals' time managing the school



Principals influence student learning

There is no question that within the school, teachers have the greatest influence on student success. However, out of all other school-related factors, school principals have the highest impact on students' education (Leithwood, Seashore Louis, Anderson, & Wahlstrom, 2004).

Recommendations

This year's survey results make it clear that it is a challenge for today's principals to find the time to fulfill their role as curriculum leaders, while also managing all of the administrative tasks involving the school building and staff. More than one fifth of elementary school principals report that managing facilities is the most time-consuming part of their job, while only nine percent report that supporting professional learning and the school's instructional program takes the most time.

People for Education recommends that the province:

• Work with the Ontario Principals' Council, the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario, and the Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles francophones, to identify where more supports are required and how demands on administration time can be alleviated, so that principals can focus more of their time on student learning and staff development. We have a significant staff shortage for casual and support staff positions. I spend a lot of time finding supply coverage, assigning on-calls, and in some cases, being an admin assistant or EA when we are that short.

Secondary school, Keewatin-Patricia DSB

Guidance counsellors

In 2018:

- 20% of elementary and 26% of secondary schools report that the most timeconsuming part of their guidance counsellors' job is providing one-on-one counselling to students for mental health needs.
- Among secondary schools with guidance counsellors, the average ratio of students to guidance counsellors is 396:1. In 10% of schools, this average jumps to 826:1.
- 31% of elementary schools in the Greater Toronto Area have guidance counsellors, more than triple any other region in the province.

Guidance counsellors are a staple of secondary school staff in Ontario, and virtually every school reports having at least part-time guidance staff. But guidance counsellors' roles vary between schools, depending on student needs, staffing, and board/school priorities.

According to the Ontario School Counsellors' Association (n.d.), the mission of a guidance counsellor is to support students' well-being and growth in three areas:

- Personal development
- Interpersonal development
- Career development

In many of Ontario's education policies, the role of guidance staff is cited as helping students with transitions and academic programming. For example, the 2013 career and life planning policy document, *Creating Pathways to Success*, states that "guidance staff play a strategic role in the development and implementation of the [Pathways] program..." (Ontario, 2013a, p. 4). Guidance counsellors also play a key role in *Specialist High Skills Majors* (Ontario, 2016c), cooperative education, and other forms of experiential learning (Ontario, 2000, p. 44).

However, guidance counsellors have responsibilities beyond helping students determine their career paths. Guidance personnel are referenced as core members of the in-school support team in the 2010 progressive discipline document, *Caring and Safe Schools* (Ontario, 2010, p. 58). They are also expected to respond to student mental health issues, according to the 2013 mental health and well-being document, *Supporting Minds* (Ontario, 2013b pp. 93-95).

Students' mental health needs: A challenge for guidance staff

In 2018, many secondary school principals report that the mental health needs of their students are a huge challenge for guidance staff.

This year, schools were asked to rank their guidance counsellors' roles, from most to least time-consuming:

- · Providing one-on-one counselling to students for mental health needs
- Supporting planning and academics (e.g. All About Me, Individual Pathway Plans, course selection with students, school applications)
- Collaborating with teachers, professionals, paraprofessionals (e.g. social workers, psychologists, child and youth workers)
- Providing behaviour-related interventions (e.g. classroom disruptions, bullying)
- Facilitating experiential learning opportunities (e.g. co-ops, internships, Dual Credits) (for secondary schools only)
- Coordinating special education accommodations (for secondary schools only)

Predictably, the majority of schools report that their guidance counsellors spend more time supporting students with academic and transition planning than any other task. However, supporting students' mental health needs was ranked second highest. Twenty-six percent of secondary and 20% of elementary schools indicate that the most timeconsuming part of the guidance counsellor's role is providing one-onone counselling to students for mental health needs (See Figure 2.1).

This is consistent with data from 2016, when 25% of secondary schools indicated that the most time-consuming job for guidance staff was supporting student mental health issues (People for Education, 2016, p. 12).

In 2017, People for Education reported that 40% of secondary schools had regularly scheduled access to a psychologist⁴ (People for Education, 2017, p. 6). In the same year, half of secondary school principals reported that they did not have sufficient access to psychologists to adequately support students. When resources such as psychologists and social workers are limited, the role of guidance counsellors may be stretched to fill gaps.

Mental health needs are increasing at an alarming rate and we do not have access to the professional services to truly help these students.

Secondary school, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB

Even though we have a social worker, the needs are so great that our Guidance counsellor often takes on that role as well.

Secondary school, Wellington Catholic DSB

4. In this document the term "psychologist" includes registered psychologists and registered psychological associates, as well as supervised non-registered psychology service providers in schools.

Figure 2.1



The most time-consuming task for guidance counsellors in secondary schools

We have very limited support at elementary. Many of the roles listed [in the survey question] above become duties of school administration.

Elementary school, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB

Per pupil amounts in funding formula limit support for guidance staff

School boards receive funding for secondary school guidance counsellors at a rate of one full-time teacher for every 385 students (Ontario 2017a, p. 26-29). This ratio is reflected in this year's results: among secondary schools with guidance staff, the average ratio of students to guidance teachers is 396:1. However, in 10% of secondary schools this average increases to 826:1.

In 2018, only 14% of elementary schools have guidance counsellors, and the majority are part-time. In elementary schools that include grades 7 and 8—where students are preparing to transition to secondary school—only 20% have guidance counsellors, and the majority are parttime. Among elementary schools with a guidance counsellor, they are scheduled for an average of 1.5 days per week. Principals comment that the current staffing levels are not sufficient. The Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) 2018 "Student Platform" included a recommendation that the student to guidance counsellor ratio for elementary schools should match the ratio for secondary schools, and that the ratio of students to guidance teachers should be narrowed at both levels (OSTA-AECO, 2018, p. 5). People for Education has also recommended funding changes, in particular to support guidance counsellors for students in grades 7 and 8 (People for Education, 2018c).

These efforts have had an impact. In 2018/19, the province will begin to implement changes to funding for guidance counsellors for students in grades 7 and 8 so that they will be funded at the same rate as guidance counsellors in secondary schools (Ontario, 2018a, p. 23).

Regional discrepancies

Because funding for guidance counsellors is provided on a per pupil basis, access to guidance counsellors in elementary schools varies markedly across the province. In the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), 31% of elementary schools have guidance staff, compared to an average of 6% across the rest of the province (see Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2





Recommendations

Guidance counsellors can play a key role in students' lives. They support students in planning transitions, seeking help for mental health issues, learning to act as advocates for themselves in connection with special education needs, and developing educational pathways that will lead to long-term success. Many principals report that guidance counsellors are "pulled in too many directions," or are challenged by the number of students they are expected to support.

People for Education recommends that the province:

- Evaluate current education policies that may include guidance counsellors, in order to rationalize Ontario's guidance programs and create greater alignment across these policies.
- Continue to implement changes to the funding formula so that schools with grades 7 and 8 have guidance counsellors at a ratio of 384 to 1.
- Clarify the role of both elementary and secondary school guidance counsellors in a way that recognizes both the breadth of their responsibilities and their relative scarcity in Ontario schools.
- Explore cost-effective ways for guidance staff support to be expanded in small towns and rural areas, to ensure students in these areas have equitable access to guidance counsellors.

Special education

Almost all schools in Ontario have some students receiving special education support. In elementary schools, an average of 17% of students per school are getting special education support. In secondary schools the average is 27% (see Figure 3.1). The kind of support students receive depends on both their individual needs and the resources available.

Students getting support without formal identification

Special education covers a wide range of supports and interventions from a little extra help in a regular class to the provision of specialized medical equipment and one, or even two, dedicated staff. Students with higher needs usually go through a formal identification process; others may have no specific special education "label", but are supported through Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Approximately half of students receiving special education support have an IEP without a formal identification (Ontario, 2017d). These students may have a learning disability, or may simply need a little extra help. The support they get can include things like extra time for writing tests, occasional help from an educational assistant, adjustments to the way they are marked, or other strategies or accommodations agreed to by the teacher, parents, and student.

Students who have been formally identified through an Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) have special education needs that fit into at least one of five provincially-recognized categories: behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical, or multiple exceptionalities. These students have a legal right to special education support (Education Act, RSO, 1990), which can include specialized equipment, withdrawal for all or part of the day to a class with a special education teacher, support from an educational assistant, modifications to the curriculum, and/or specialized classes (Ontario, 2017c).

In 2018:

- An average of 17% of students per elementary school and 27% per secondary school receives special education support.
- 66% of elementary schools and 53% of secondary schools report a restriction on the number of students that can be assessed for special education each year – a trend that has been increasing among elementary school over the years.
- 92% of urban elementary schools have a full-time special education teacher, compared to 72% of rural elementary schools.
- 58% of elementary principals and 48% of secondary principals report that they have had to recommend a student with special education needs not attend school for the full day – the majority for safety reasons.
- 93% of elementary schools and 97% of secondary schools report that students waiting for an assessment are receiving some special education support.

Figure 3.1



Average proportion of students receiving special education support per school

Special Education needs continue to rise, as support continues to be cut. Many students with Autism Spectrum Disorder who require full time support do not receive it; thus making it a safety concern for all involved. More money needs to be put into special education in order to provide these students with the care and education they should receive; just like all other students.

Elementary school, York Catholic DSB

We don't have enough special education support to provide services to students who are not identified but who still have significant challenges.

Elementary school, Rainbow DSB

Staff support

Students with special education needs receive support from staff in a range of ways, including:

- Occasional support from an educational assistant in a regular classroom
- Support from the classroom teacher, who is in turn supported by a specialist special education teacher who works with all of the teachers in the school
- Support from a specialist special education teacher, either in their regular classroom or withdrawn for part of the day
- Placement in a separate class with a specialist special education teacher, with or without some time spent in a regular class

Nearly all schools have at least a part-time special education teacher. However, only 72% of rural elementary schools report a full-time special education teacher, compared to 92% of urban schools. This has been consistent over the past several years.

The average ratio of students receiving special education support to special education teachers is 36:1 in elementary school and 74:1 in secondary school.

Eighty-eight percent of elementary and 94% of secondary schools have educational assistants (EAs) who provide vital support, both to classroom teachers and to students. Educational assistants help students with ongoing lessons, assist with personal hygiene, and support students in managing their behavior. The average ratio of students receiving special education support to educational assistants is 19:1 in elementary schools and 61:1 in secondary schools.

Parents are being asked to keep some students home

While most schools have educational assistants, principals continue to report that they have insufficient support for their students with special education needs. One consequence may be that there are times when principals ask parents to keep students home. Since 2014, there has been an increase in the percentage of schools that report having asked that a student be kept home for all or part of the school day. It is unclear what is causing this change—an increase in the frequency/severity of behaviour problems, a decrease in available resources, or some combination of these.

In 2018:

- 58% of elementary and 48% of secondary school principals report they have had to recommend a student with special education needs not attend school for the full day. This is a substantial increase from 48% and 40% respectively, in 2014.
- 73% of elementary principals who answered "yes" to this question, said it was for safety reasons, while 18% said it was because supports were not available.

Waitlists and restrictions

In order to be formally identified with a recognized special education exceptionality under Ministry of Education guidelines (Ontario, 2017d), students must be assessed by a specialist such as a psychologist,⁵ speech-language pathologist, or physician. In last year's survey, 38% of elementary and 40% of secondary schools reported having regularly scheduled access to psychologists, while 13% of elementary and 16% of secondary schools reported having no access at all (People for Education, 2017).

The lack of access to specialists can result in students having to wait for assessments. Wait times vary, based on the severity of student needs and the school board's policy for waiting lists. This year, 93% of elementary and 79% of secondary schools report that they have students on waiting lists. It is important to note, however, that while students are waiting for assessment, they are not necessarily going without support. The vast majority of schools report that students waiting for special education assessments have Individual Education Plans (89% of elementary and 97% of secondary) and are receiving special education support (93% of elementary and 97% of secondary).

Many school boards impose restrictions on the number of students who can be assessed per year (see Figure 3.2), often because of limited access to specialists.

Almost all of our EAs support students with safety, behavioural, and/or communication challenges. If I have asked a parent to keep a student home it is almost always related to safety (the student runs, hits self/peers/ adults, or vandalizes the space he/she is in). Even with 14 EA FTEs I have new needs that enter my school regularly which means I am stretched thin.

Elementary school, Halton DSB

The Psychologist and Speech Language Pathologist only come once a week, and the number of students in need of assessment is overwhelming. We are in a poor socioeconomic area and parents do not have the financial resources to do private assessments. We have a number of students that are on the Autism spectrum and/or have behavioural issues, and not having full day support for these children makes it a safety issue (to themselves and others). Also, having to cluster support does not always function very well. We are finding that students are not making the gains they could because of the distraction of 1 EA having to go between 3 to 4 students with high needs.

Elementary school, Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB

^{5.} In this document, the term "psychologist" includes registered psychologists and registered psychological associates, as well as supervised non-registered psychology service providers in schools.





Percentage of schools reporting a restriction on the number of students to be assessed

Two-tier system for parents who have money to pay for assessments [outside of the school system].⁶

Elementary school, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario

We are given 2 assessments per year and they usually come late in the school year. Given our geographic location, there are not a lot resources available to the students (and their parents) on the autism spectrum or who have difficulty with behaviour and/ or mental wellness.

Elementary school, Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic DSB

In 2018:

- 66% of elementary schools and 53% of secondary schools report there is a restriction on the number of students who can be assessed.
- 73% of rural elementary schools report restrictions, compared to 61% of urban schools.

In March 2018, the Ontario Ministry of Education announced \$72 million in funding for the 2018/19 school year to reduce waiting lists for special education assessments and to "increase services through multidisciplinary teams and other staffing resources" (Davis, 2018).

The impact of parental education and income

This year, we used information from Statistics Canada and Ontario's Ministry of Education to examine the relationship between students' family background and a range of resources and programs in schools. We compared the top and bottom 25% of our elementary school sample in two areas: the proportion of families under the Low-Income Measure, and the proportion of students with at least one parent who has graduated from university. For the sake of comparison, we refer to these as *high* and *low* poverty schools, and *high* and *low* parental education schools.

Many researchers suggest that students from disadvantaged

6. Translated from French. Original comment: "Système à 2 vitesses pour les parents qui ont de l'argent pour débourser l'évaluation."

backgrounds are more likely to be identified with certain kinds of special needs. These families have less access to services, fewer monetary resources, lower educational backgrounds, and may have less confidence to advocate for their children than more affluent families (Ong-Dean, 2009). As a result, there may be an over-representation of lower income students in special education classes (Brown & Parekh, 2013).

In 2018, students in elementary schools with lower levels of parental education, and in schools with higher poverty, were more likely to be receiving special education support:

- On average, 12% of students in elementary schools with *high parental* education receive special education support, compared to 23% of students in elementary schools with *low parental education*. This includes both students with a formal diagnosis, and those with an IEP.
- On average, 13% of students in *low poverty* elementary schools receive special education support, compared to an average of 16% in *high poverty* elementary schools.

Recommendations

Over the years, the province has increased overall funding for special education, and introduced a range of models and formulas to allocate the funding to school boards. In the last four years, some of those changes have resulted in funding increases for some boards and decreases for others. However, principals continue to point to both delivery of special education services and support for students with mental health issues as significant stresses in their schools.

People for Education recommends that the province:

- Provide adequate support to educators in kindergarten and the early grades to ensure they have the time and capacity to identify students who may need special education support.
- Ensure that students who require special education support are receiving it as early as possible. By addressing special education needs early, some students may not require support in later grades.
- Consider re-distributing some of the funding currently targeted at reducing waitlists to provide more on-theground support, including increased numbers of educational assistants.

In 2018:

- 94% of elementary schools and 100% of secondary schools report collaborating with mental health care services.
- 53% of elementary schools have a specialist health and physical education (H&PE) teacher, full- or part-time, compared to 42% in 2017.
- 39% of elementary schools in rural areas have H&PE teachers, compared to 62% of those in urban areas.
- Among elementary schools with an H&PE teacher, 80% have advanced training.
- 62% of urban elementary schools have H&PE teachers, compared to 39% of rural elementary schools.

It is amazing to have a dedicated H&PE teacher. He also does yoga, meditation and self-regulation strategies with them.

Elementary school, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB

Physical and mental health

Students bring not just their minds, but their complete selves to school. Resources that support student health and physical activity are pivotal in ensuring that students graduate from school prepared to make healthy choices throughout their lives (Ferguson & Power, 2014).

Specialists on the rise

In this year's survey, 53% of elementary schools report having a health and physical education (H&PE) teacher. This reflects a general upward trend since the beginning of the Annual Ontario School Survey in 1998 (see Figure 4.1). The percentage of schools reporting that their H&PE teacher is full-time has also increased, from 18% in 1998 to 39% this year.

Among those schools with H&PE teachers, 80% report that their teachers have some sort of advanced training for H&PE (e.g. an Additional Qualification course, a degree in a relevant field, or professional development around H&PE teaching).

Some studies have shown that being taught by specialist H&PE teachers can lead to better health and academic outcomes for elementary students (e.g. Telford, et al., 2012). In Ontario, children generally receive the same amount of instruction time in physical education, regardless of whether a specialist or generalist is teaching (Faulkner, et al., 2008). However, in schools where specialist teachers are responsible for H&PE, students are more likely to be engaged in intramural sports. Faulkner et al. suggest that this is because specialists may have more resources and a greater interest in developing and promoting these opportunities for students. On the other hand, Ophea—a non-profit organization that supports health and physical education in Ontario—suggests that both qualified elementary teachers and H&PE specialists are capable of delivering quality physical activity initiatives and programs (Ophea, 2016).

This year, we matched our survey results to data from grade 3 and 6 student questionnaires completed as part of the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments. The results indicate that students attending schools with at least one full-time H&PE teacher are slightly more likely to participate in sports or other physical activities outside the school day, every day or almost every day, when compared to schools with no H&PE teacher.

In a recent survey of parents, Ophea found that 79% of Ontario parents agree that teaching H&PE in schools helps prepare their children to address health issues (Ophea, 2018).





Percentage of elementary schools with a H&PE teacher full- or part-time

Increased funding for specialists

As with most specialist teachers, there is no specific funding designated for H&PE teachers. Instead, school boards are allocated funds on a per-pupil basis to cover the costs of preparation time for classroom teachers. In elementary schools, while classroom teachers are using their preparation time (for things like marking, preparing, collaborating with other teachers, and communicating with parents), their classes are taught by specialist teachers in subjects like H&PE. The larger the school, the more preparation time is generated; thus larger schools have more funding to hire more specialist teachers. Elementary schools with at least one full-time H&PE teacher have, on average, 45% more students than those without a full-time H&PE teacher.

In 2017/18, the Ministry of Education increased the amount of funding for specialist teacher/preparation time (Ontario, 2016b; 2017b). This change in funding may be partly responsible for the eleven percentage-point increase seen in H&PE teachers this year.

Excellent teacher and involved in many areas; qualified up to [H&PE Additional Qualification] part 3. He knows all the students and their strengths and needs. He is involved in many extracurricular and sports activities with several members of our staff.⁷

Elementary school, Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence

Staff enjoy teaching their own Phys. Ed. (instead of teaching their own music for example). However, I find they do not engage in the same way a Phys. Ed. teacher would (e.g., wear athletic gear and actually run or jump or play a game of tag with students).

Elementary school, Waterloo Region DSB

7. Translated from French. Original comment: "Excellent enseignant et impliqué dans bien des domaines. Il est qualifié jusqu'à la partie trois. Il connaît tous les élèves et leurs forces et besoins. Il s'implique dans plusieurs activités parascolaires et sportives avec plusieurs membres de notre personnel."

[Challenges with H&PE:] just timetabling. Students should have Physical Education every day in my opinion.

Elementary school, Toronto DSB

We share a gym with another larger school. None of the classes have access to the gym every day. It's either twice or 3 times a week in a 5-day cycle. It's difficult (next to impossible) to get additional gym time for sports if we want to practice at lunch, as an example.

Elementary school, Huron-Superior Catholic DSB

Percentage of elementary schools with H&PE teachers

More specialists in urban schools

In this year's survey, elementary schools in urban areas are more likely to have H&PE teachers than those in rural areas (see Figure 4.3). Overall, 39% of elementary schools in rural areas have H&PE teachers, compared to 62% of those in urban areas. In part, this gap can be attributed to school size. However, a slight difference persists even when school size is taken into account.

In addition to having more teachers, urban regions are more likely to have H&PE specialists with advanced training. Among schools in rural areas with H&PE teachers, 77% have advanced training, compared to 82% in urban areas.

Daily activity is a challenge

In 2014, the Ontario government announced it would work to implement 60 minutes of physical activity, connected to the school day, for all students (Office of the Premier, 2014), and in 2018, a survey of Ontario parents found that 99% believe it is important for their children to be physically active for at least 60 minutes each day (Ophea, 2018).

However, data from the Canadian Health Measures Survey from 2009 to 2015 indicate that only 7% of Canadian children and youth accumulated at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on at least 6 out of 7 days (Colley et al., 2017). The study, which used accelerometers to measure movement, also found that boys accumulated more physical activity than girls, and children (6- to 11- year olds) were more physically active than youth (12- to 17-year olds). The levels of physical activity have remained relatively consistent over time, and have not changed substantially with the introduction of new initiatives.



Figure 4.2

In 2017, the Auditor General reported that there was progress in the implementation of the 20-minute Daily Physical Activity requirement in elementary schools, but "little or no progress" towards increasing physical activity to 60 minutes (Auditor General, 2017).

In this year's survey, many principals commented that having adequate space and equipment for students is a significant challenge in providing physical education.

Supporting students' mental health

Health and physical education is not only about sports and exercise. It also includes learning about taking care of mental health, understanding and managing risks, and knowing how to recognize signs of mental illness and when to get help with mental health issues. According to a recent poll conducted by Ophea and Environics, 90% of Ontario parents "agree" or "strongly agree" that mental health should be taught as a component of the H&PE curriculum (Ophea, 2018).

Supporting students' mental health is a central goal for the Ministry of Education. In 2009, the province amended Ontario's *Education Act* to make the promotion of well-being a responsibility of every school board (Education Act, RSO, 1990), and mental health and wellbeing are core components of the province's Wellbeing Strategy, introduced in 2014 (Ontario, 2016d).

However, it is clear from the concerns raised in this year's survey that supporting and promoting mental health, and ensuring there are adequate resources and supports for students struggling with mental illness, continue to present serious challenges.

People for Education—in collaboration with academics and educators—

[Chalenges with H&PE:] space. One small gym in the basement, one auditorium, and not enough large space in the school.

Elementary school, Toronto DSB

Our biggest challenges are supporting students and their families regarding mental health issues. Education has changed tremendously and we spend much of our time providing support for issues that are outside of the classroom/school.

Elementary school, Upper Canada DSB

Figure 4.3

Percentage of schools that report connecting with mental health care services



Mental Health and behaviour challenges are on the rise and require much more time and attention than has been needed in the past. This often takes away from the time needed on academic school improvement. The good news is that we have been given the opportunity to focus on well-being as part of our School Improvement Planning, with resources to support this. Unfortunately, the need still far out-weighs the available resources in schools each day.

Elementary school, Waterloo Region DSB has identified specific health and social-emotional competencies that contribute to a whole-school approach to supporting mental health. (Ferguson & Power, 2014; Shanker, 2014) To be effective, these competencies can and should be integrated within curriculum and policy from kindergarten through grade 12, foregrounded as a central area of focus for educators, and recognized as a valued outcome of learning, rather than an add-on or by-product of academic achievement.

Most schools in Ontario are reaching beyond the education system to connect students and their families with mental health services and support. In 2018, 94% of elementary and 100% of secondary schools report connecting or working with mental health care services (see Figure 4.3).

While the vast majority of schools report collaborating with mental health organizations, there may still be issues with access to support. In 2017, 47% of elementary schools reported that they did not have access to child and youth workers, 15% did not have access to social workers, and 13% did not have access to psychologists. This year, many principals commented on the challenge of supporting students who are struggling with mental illness.

Recommendations

Students' mental and physical health has an impact on both their education and their long-term success. It is vital to recognize – with policy, curriculum, resources and professional supports – that supporting students' health is one of the "basics." It is also vital to foster mental health promotion and illness prevention strategies, rather than focusing solely on reactions and supports for mental illness. Doing this will ensure that students:

- Develop vital social-emotional and health competencies
- Are able to make healthy choices
- Have the capacity to recognize when they need help
- Develop life-long health promoting habits and behaviours
- People for Education recommends that the province:
- Work with a range of stakeholders to create learning spaces and environments that maximize student wellbeing and socialemotional learning.
- Integrate social-emotional and health competencies across the curriculum, and provide adequate resources and capacitybuilding for staff to support both themselves and their students.

Indigenous education

It has been ten years since Ontario released its *First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework*. The strategy called for improving achievement for Indigenous students, closing the gap in achievement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and ensuring *all* students gain an understanding of Indigenous cultures, experiences, and perspectives.

Ten years along, People for Education's data show considerable gains on the last of those objectives. But the fundamental challenge of significantly raising achievement for Indigenous students remains (Ontario, 2018b).

Ensuring all young people learn about Indigenous cultures and experiences

There has been a significant increase in the percentage of schools who report providing Indigenous education opportunities. This increase reflects a broader societal awareness, deliberate policy efforts, and a substantial increase in the re-named Indigenous Education Grant (up \$54 million to \$66.3 million in the last ten years). It also reflects some of the goals laid out in *The Journey Together* (Government of Ontario, 2016), the provincial government's response to the *Calls for Action* from the 2015 *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* (TRC; TRC, 2015, pp. 319-337).

This year, 74% of elementary and 84% of secondary schools report offering at least one Indigenous learning opportunity (professional development, cultural supports, guest speakers, community consultation, ceremonies, Indigenous Studies courses, or Indigenous language programs). This is a substantial increase from 2014, when only 34% of elementary and 61% of secondary schools reported offering any Indigenous learning opportunities (see Figure 5.1).

In their survey responses, principals describe a wide range of initiatives in their schools: school-wide recognition of Indigenous culture, medicine gardens or canoes built by students and elders, activities for Treaty Recognition Week or Orange Shirt Day (commemorating the history of residential schools), assemblies, field trips, land acknowledgements, and Indigenous national anthems.

Some schools report strong integration into the mainstream curriculum, including things like an entire grade 9 visual arts course taught through Indigenous themes, curricular support for all staff from a trained teacher-librarian, and a commitment to ensure Indigenous art and literature is available in all classrooms.

In 2018:

- 74% of elementary and 84% of secondary schools offer at least one Indigenous learning opportunity, compared to 34% and 61% respectively in 2014.
- 59% of elementary and 71% of secondary schools report providing professional development for teachers around Indigenous cultural issues.
- 21% of elementary schools and 46% of secondary schools report having a selfidentified Indigenous person on staff.
- 87% of elementary schools with an Indigenous staff member have at least one Indigenous education opportunity, compared to 67% of those without an Indigenous staff member.

We have one third of our students/families who self-identify and are very supportive of providing input and guidance around our work. We also have very strong staff leadership in this area of wellness and student belonging.

Elementary school, Algonquin and Lakeshore DSB





Percentage of schools offering Indigenous education opportunities

We know we have some students who identified as Indigenous in our last student climate survey, however they have yet to identify themselves to us.

Elementary school, York Region DSB

I would like the board to mandate Indigenous education training and offer workshops much like they do for Numeracy and Literacy and for We Rise Together supporting black male youth at high school. The board has not mandated Indigenous training, I think they should.

Elementary school, Peel DSB

Supporting teachers' learning

In its Calls to Action, the TRC specifically called for supports to help teachers learn how to teach Indigenous content. One of the most important recent changes in the school system is a revision of the curriculum in all subjects and all grades. This revision, developed collaboratively with Indigenous partners, includes "mandatory learning about the impact of colonialism and the rights and responsibilities of all people in Canada with respect to understanding the shared history and building the collective future in the spirit of reconciliation" (Ontario, 2018b, p. 17).

In this year's survey, 59% of elementary and 71% of secondary schools report professional development (PD) for teachers around Indigenous cultural issues, up from 34% in both elementary and secondary in 2013 (see Figure 5.2). Since the requirement for Indigenous content in teacher education is relatively recent (Ontario College of Teachers, 2013), ongoing PD is the most effective way to ensure *all* teachers are developing the required knowledge and confidence to teach in this area (e.g. Craven, Yeung, & Han, 2014; Nardozi & Mashford-Pringle, 2014).

Professional development matters since, in the words of one principal, "there are few resources for staff who themselves are still learning about the Indigenous struggle."⁸ PD may also help teachers understand why Indigenous education is important for all students, as a significant number of principals still comment on limited interest or even resistance to prioritizing this learning in their schools.

8. Comment from an elementary school in Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB





Percentage of schools with professional development around Indigenous cultural issues

Learning *from* Indigenous people in Ontario schools

One of the key performance measures identified in the *First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Framework* is a "significant increase in the number of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit teaching and non-teaching staff in school boards across Ontario" (Ontario, 2007b, p. 11). However, the province does not require boards to collect the data needed to assess progress on this measure (Ontario, 2018b, p. 56).

This year, for the first time, People for Education asked schools if they have staff who self-identify as Indigenous:

- 21% of elementary schools report having self-identified Indigenous staff.
- 40% of elementary schools in Northern Ontario have Indigenous staff, compared to only 14% of schools in the Greater Toronto Area.
- 46% of secondary schools—which generally have larger staffs, and thus a greater likelihood of diversity—report a self-identified Indigenous person on-staff.

It is evident from the survey results that having Indigenous staff has an impact on the number of Indigenous education opportunities offered in schools (see Figure 5.3). However, it is important to recognize that being the only, or one of a few, Indigenous teachers in the school community can put added pressures on these educators, and they may experience additional barriers of racism and oppression in the school space (Kholi & Pizzaro, 2016).

We are incredibly non-diverse, so it's a challenge to have teachers embrace the need for Indigenous education. With so many demands...teachers have to be passionate about this issue for it to happen.

Elementary school, Waterloo Region DSB

Figure 5.3

Impact of self-identified Indigenous staff on Indigenous education opportunities



Currently we are focusing our school based character education around The Seven Grandfather Teachings. We don't have an Indigenous staff member, so this presents a challenge, since we are concerned about presenting the Indigenous teachings in an authentic way.

Elementary school, Limestone DSB Effective partnerships with local Indigenous organizations can also play a critical role. These types of partnerships can include things like sharing resources or space, co-planning, or providing community support for students.

In 2018:

- 3% of elementary schools report they "often" connect or work with Indigenous organizations, compared to 14% of secondary schools.
- 53% of elementary, and 65% of secondary schools report that they "sometimes" connect or work together.
- 90% of elementary and 79% of secondary schools report that Indigenous organizations were "fairly" or "very" accessible to them.

Indigenous languages and Indigenous Studies

Provincial data show considerable growth in the number of students enrolled in Indigenous language programs – from 4,302 students in 2006/07 to 7,795 students in 2015/16. Over the same time period, the number of students enrolled in Indigenous Studies⁹ courses has skyrocketed, from 1,134 course enrolments to 22,195 (Ontario, 2018b, p. 27). These courses are now offered in 56% of secondary schools across the province.

Funding for both Indigenous language programs and Indigenous Studies is based on an average class size of 12 students, to allow the classes to exist even when enrolment is low. Funding is provided according to demand, and, in the case of Indigenous Studies, funding has grown from \$1.4 million in 2007/08 (Ontario, 2007a, p. 45) to a projected \$33.5 million for 2018/19 (Ontario, 2018a, p. 54).

9. Since we released the survey, the name of Native Studies has been changed to Indigenous Studies.

Figure 5.4



Graduation rates for students after five years of secondary school

Time for a broader strategy on outcomes

Ten years ago, the province committed to closing the achievement gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students by 2016. Unfortunately, the gap persists, and improvements on test scores in literacy and numeracy have been marginal.

This year, for the first time, the province reported on graduation rates: among students who started high school in 2011/12, the graduation rate for First Nations students is 27 percentage points below the Ontario average (Ontario, 2018b, p. 70; see Figure 5.4).

In 2018, the Ministry of Education committed to renewing the framework for Indigenous education (Ontario, 2018b, p. 79) to include a broader base of partnerships and support for schools across the province.

Recommendations

Many Indigenous organizations have pushed for a broader definition and different measures of educational success—to include a more holistic vision for education (e.g. Toulouse, 2016). In order to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in terms of overall success in schools, there needs to be adequate and culturally relevant supports available to Indigenous students, their families, and their communities, as well as a fundamental shift in the definition of success to one that includes strong academic performance, but goes well beyond it.

In 2014, the Ministry of Education committed to work with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit partners and key education stakeholders to "explore and identify additional indicators of student achievement…well-being and self-esteem."

People for Education recommends that the province:

- Act on its 2014 commitment and work with Indigenous leaders and scholars to establish a new set of relevant indicators of student success that are more congruent with the interests, needs, and motivation of Indigenous communities, and vital for all students' success in school and life.
- Continue to support the Education Equity Secretariat in collecting data about self-identified Indigenous staff and students in school boards across the province (Ontario, 2017e).
Arts education

It is hard to understate the benefit derived from an education in the arts. Extensive research on the impact of arts education shows that it supports students' development in areas ranging from improved spatial reasoning (Hetland & Winner, 2001) to a deepened motivation for learning (Deasy, 2002). Most significantly, arts education has the potential to enrich students' creativity and social development (Hunter, 2005). These two qualities are included in the Ministry of Education's *21st Century Competencies* (Government of Ontario, 2015), and make up two of five key learning domains identified in People for Education's *Measuring What Matters* initiative (Shanker, 2014; Upitis, 2014; People for Education, 2018a).

Despite the widely recognized importance of arts education, equitable access to arts programs and resources is an ongoing challenge in Ontario. While some schools offer many extracurricular arts activities, students in small and rural schools, in schools with higher levels of poverty, and in schools with lower levels of parental education, are less likely to have access to learning opportunities in the arts.

Arts funding and school budgets

Until recently, there has been no provincial funding dedicated to the arts, it has been up to school boards to determine how to fund arts education. In some cases, boards allocate money for specific arts initiatives or instructional priorities. For example, some boards provide instrumental music for all students in grades 7 and 8, and will therefore provide some funding to schools for instruments. Other boards provide an instructional budget based on the amount of full-time equivalent (FTE) music specialists there are at each school.

In addition to board funding, schools can fundraise for things like arts excursions, visiting artists, or musical instruments. Together, the funds raised by the school and allocated by the board make up each school's arts budget for the year.

In 2018, we asked elementary and secondary schools about their arts budget. Among elementary schools, these budgets range from under \$500 to as high as \$20,000 (see Figure 6.1). At the secondary level, arts budgets can reach as high as \$100,000 (see Figure 6.2).

In 2018:

- 46% of elementary schools report having a specialist music teacher, either full- or part-time, up from 41% last year.
- 98% of secondary schools offer a senior (grades 11/12) Visual Arts class, 92% offer a senior Music class, 86% offer a senior Drama class, and 32% offer a senior Dance class.
- Elementary schools with higher proportion of parents who have graduated from university are twice as likely to have a specialist music teacher as schools with lower proportions of university-educated parents.
- School budgets for the arts range from less than \$500 to \$100,000.

Figure 6.1

Percentage of elementary schools whose art budget is...



Figure 6.2

Percentage of secondary schools whose art budget is...



Arts budgets: Size matters

[Challenges with arts education:] lack of budget to buy musical instruments.¹²

Elementary school, Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien Both the survey data and principals' comments illustrate the impact of school budgets on access to resources and learning opportunities in the arts. One principal commented that "many instruments sit broken until budgetary bottom lines are determined closer to the end of the year. Even then, not all instruments can be repaired because there is not enough money."¹⁰ Another noted that it is "very difficult to keep up with maintenance and replacement costs"¹¹ associated with their instruments.

To understand the impact of arts budgets on students' opportunities to participate in arts enrichment, we examined the difference between elementary schools with the highest (over \$5000) and lowest (under \$500) budgets. Figure 6.3 shows that the size of a school's arts budget has a significant impact on learning opportunities for elementary students.

In elementary schools, the arts budget also appears to be connected with the availability of arts programming space. Elementary schools with an arts budget of \$5000 or greater have, on average, three times as many types of specialty arts rooms as those with arts budgets under \$500.

10. This comment is from a secondary school in Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB

- 11. This comment is from an elementary school in Lakehead DSB
- 12. Translated from French. Original comment: "Manque de budget pour acheter des instruments de musique."

Figure 6.3

Impact of arts budgets on students' access to arts enrichment



Secondary schools with budgets of \$2000 or higher are more likely to provide arts-related opportunities than those with budgets under \$2000. Secondary schools with budgets of \$2000 or higher are:

- 11% more likely to be able to display their art
- 15% more likely to see live artistic performances
- 33% more likely to learn an instrument in school hours
- 47% more likely to participate in a choir, orchestra, or band
- 63% more likely to work with an artist or professional from outside the school

The impact of fundraising

There is a clear link between the amount schools fundraise and the size of their arts budgets. At the secondary level, schools that report fundraising for the arts are 22% more likely to report an arts budget of \$5000 or more. At the elementary level, this effect is even more pronounced. Elementary schools who report fundraising for the arts are twice as likely to report a budget of \$5000 or more.

When the top and bottom 10% of fundraising elementary schools are compared, the gap widens further, regardless of whether they reported raising money for the arts. The top fundraising elementary schools are almost three times more likely to have an arts budget of \$5000 or more.

Much of our arts is funded through our school council, who have prioritized the arts at this school.

Elementary school, Toronto DSB

The impact of demographic factors

This year, we used information from Statistics Canada and Ontario's Ministry of Education to examine the relationship between students' family background and a range of resources and programs in schools. We compared the top and bottom 25% of our elementary school sample in two areas: the proportion of families under the Low-Income Measure, and the proportion of students with at least one parent who has graduated from university. For the sake of comparison, we refer to these as *high* and *low* poverty schools, and *high* and *low* parental education schools.

Low poverty schools are more likely to raise more money per school, more money per student, and more money specifically for the arts, as compared to *high poverty schools*. Schools with *high parental education* were 10 times more likely to have an arts budget of \$5000 or more, as compared to schools with *low parental education*.

Specialist teachers

Ontario's arts curriculum covers everything from drama to visual arts, music and dance. It is very detailed, and can pose a challenge for classroom teachers—particularly in elementary schools—if they do not have additional training.

On this year's survey, many principals commented that their schools struggle with a "lack of specialists" to teach the arts—a concern that is supported by the survey data. In 2018, only 46% of elementary schools report having a music teacher, either full- or part-time. While this is an improvement over the 41% of schools reporting music teachers last year, it is still well below the 58% of schools reporting music teachers 20 years ago. Only 16% of elementary schools with grades 7 and 8 report having a specialist visual arts teacher, and just 8% of elementary schools with grades 7 and 8 have access to a specialist drama teacher.

Access to specialist teachers—the impact of school size

School boards must provide teachers with preparation time, and in elementary schools, that preparation time is usually covered by specialist teachers. Schools with more students have more teachers, which generates more preparation time. As a result, larger schools can hire more specialist teachers to cover that prep time. In this year's survey, elementary schools with a full-time music teacher average 59% more students than those without a specialist.

This year's survey results illustrate the impact of funding for preparation time on access to specialist teachers. As funding for preparation time has increased from 2016/17 to 2017/18 (Ontario, 2016b; Ontario, 2017a), we are seeing an increase in the overall percentage of elementary schools reporting a music teacher, from 41% in 2017 to 46% in 2018.

Individual educators are required to integrate the arts in their classroom instruction, and often they do not have specialized training; therefore, these areas may not receive the attention necessary.

Elementary school, Sudbury Catholic DSB

Figure 6.4



Parental education and access to arts in school

Access to specialist teachers—the impact of parental education

This year's survey reveals that elementary schools with *high parental education* are twice as likely to have a music teacher (60% of *high parental education* schools vs. 30% of *low parental education* schools), and three times as likely to have a full-time music teacher, as those with *low parental education*. These differences hold even when the data is controlled for region (rural vs. urban) and school size.

This pattern extends beyond music. *High parental education* schools with grades 7 and 8 are two and a half times more likely to have a visual arts teacher than schools with *low parental education*, and three times more likely to have a drama teacher (see Figure 6.4).

The space will be lost next year as the school board offers the space to provide daycare at the school.¹⁴

Elementary school, Conseil des écoles catholique du Centre-Est

Is there room in schools for the arts?

Learning music, drama, dance, and visual arts requires space—space for instruments and supplies, space for working with different visual arts media, and space to move around. In their comments, survey respondents frequently cite a lack of specialized space as a barrier to providing arts programming. Many principals report that there is no available space because their school is "at capacity," with one principal commenting that they "barely have storage space, let alone additional space for any learning outside of the normal classroom environment."¹³

In this year's survey, 43% of elementary schools report that they have no specialized rooms for the arts (see Figure 6.5). In 2018:

- 55% of schools have dedicated space for music
- 17% of schools have dedicated space for visual arts
- 14% of schools have dedicated space for drama
- 13% of schools have dedicated space for dance

Virtually all secondary schools (98%) have at least one room for arts instruction, and 83% report three or more specialized arts rooms. Visual arts rooms are the most common, with 96% of secondary schools reporting one. Larger schools are more likely to have more types of specialized rooms.

Figure 6.5

No specialty arts rooms 43% Music room 55% Visual arts room 17% Drama room 14% Dance room 13% 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%

Percentage of elementary schools with specialized art rooms

13. This comment is from an elementary school in Brant Haldiman Norfolk Catholic DSB

14. Translated from French. Original comment: "Le local sera perdu l'an prochain car le conseil scolaire offre le local pour offrir une garderie à l'école."

The urban-rural divide

Schools in rural areas face more challenges than their urban counterparts in providing arts education. According to the survey data, urban elementary schools are three times more likely than rural schools to have budgets of \$5000 or more.

Rural schools are also less likely to have specialist drama, visual arts, and music teachers (see Figure 6.6).¹⁵ The qualifications held by these educators reveal further disparities:

- 77% of rural elementary schools have music teachers with advanced qualifications, compared to 85% in urban elementary schools.
- 17% of rural elementary schools have drama teachers with advanced qualifications, compared to 52% in urban elementary schools.

This is reflected in the comments on the surveys, with one principal identifying the "recruitment of qualified teachers to come to [their] small rural community"¹⁶ as a challenge.

While 37% of elementary schools in urban areas report that they *do not have any* specialized arts rooms, this rises to 53% of elementary schools in rural areas. This pattern holds true even after accounting for the impact of school size, although the gap is not quite as pronounced in similarly-sized schools.

Our school is a small country school with only 8 classrooms. Our teaching staff allotment doesn't afford us the opportunity to have specialist teachers.

Elementary school, Lambton Kent DSB

Figure 6.6



Percentage of elementary schools with specialist arts teachers, by region

15. Visual arts and drama teachers are calculated among elementary schools that include grades 7 and 8 students only.

16. This comment is from a secondary school in Keewatin-Patricia DSB

Equity and the arts

The cost of arts activities and programs outside of the school day make them inaccessible to many families. This year, data from student questionnaires completed as part of the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments, show that overall, 43% of grade three and 39% of grade six students participate in art, music, or drama activities at least once a week when they are not at school.

However, there is a relationship between schools' arts budgets and the amount they fundraise, and students' participation in the arts. In schools with lower arts budgets (which are also more likely to have a higher proportion of students with lower family incomes), students are much more likely to say they "never" participate in art, music, or drama activities outside of the school day. This, along with regional disparities in access to specialist teachers and specialized learning spaces, points to worrying inequities in students' access to arts education.

Recommendations

Arts education builds foundational skills and competencies that have an impact on students' long-term success. Students' critical thinking, persistence, social-emotional, collaboration, and communication skills are all developed in arts education. But students' access to strong arts education is affected by where they live, their parents' income and education, and their school's capacity to fundraise.

People for Education recommends that the province:

- Work with educators and stakeholders to evaluate the costs of arts education, both during and outside the school day.
- Recognize and fund resources and programs that support learning in the arts.
- Ensure that core competencies gained through arts education are embedded in the arts curriculum.

Fundraising and fees

Fundraising is a staple in most schools in Ontario. In 2018, 99% of elementary and 87% of secondary schools report that they fundraise in some way. Schools report a variety of fundraising activities, including pizza lunches, book fairs, bingos, holiday gift sales, and chili cookoffs. The money raised is used to support charities, fund busing for school trips, purchase new technology, establish student bursaries and scholarships, or add outdoor learning spaces.

Ontario's *Guideline for School Fundraising* specifies that funds raised must be used "to complement, not replace, public funding for education" (Ontario, 2012b, p. 3). Schools cannot fundraise for "learning materials and textbooks," "staff training for professional development," or "administrative expenses" (p. 4). But they can fundraise for things like "excursions," "guest speakers," "extracurricular activities," and "upgrades to sporting facilities" (pp. 4-5).

These experiences enrich the school environment, and help students develop skills and competencies they might not get from classroom learning alone (Upitis, 2014).

More money raised in more elementary schools

While the median amount fundraised per secondary school has remained fairly consistent in recent years, there has been a substantial increase in the median amount raised in elementary schools.

In 2018, the median amount raised by elementary schools reached an all-time high of \$10,000, 25% higher than any other year on record. Almost a quarter of elementary schools raised \$20,000 or more, which is also an all-time high, increasing from 16% in 2011 (see Figure 7.1).

In 2018:

- 99% of elementary schools and 87% of secondary schools report fundraising.
- Almost a quarter of elementary schools raise \$20,000 or more – the highest proportion in the survey's history.
- Elementary schools with lower rates of poverty raise twice the amount of money raised in schools with higher rates of poverty.
- 87% of secondary schools report having student activity fees, which can be up to \$300 per year.

We are thankful for the hard work and contributions of our parent community. Without their continued efforts, a lot of the extracurricular activities, guest speakers/presenters and special events that take place... could not happen with the current school budget alone.

Elementary school, Toronto DSB

Figure 7.1



Percentage of elementary schools raising over \$10,000

Inequities in fundraising

Fundraising inequities have been a persistent issue in Ontario (Winton, 2016). And these inequities appear to be growing, despite the introduction of provincial fundraising guidelines in 2012.

This year's survey results show that once again, the amount fundraised by school communities varies widely. In 2018, the top 10% of fundraising elementary schools raised 37 times the amount raised by the bottom 10%, with some schools reporting raising as much as \$123,000.

Among secondary schools, the top 5% of fundraising schools raised as much as the bottom 81% combined, with some schools reporting raising \$150,000.

From their comments on the surveys, it is clear that principals are acutely aware of these variations and their consequences.

Family income and its impact on fundraising

This year, we used information from Statistics Canada and Ontario's Ministry of Education to examine the relationship between students' family background and a range of resources and programs in schools. We compared the top and bottom 25% of our elementary school sample in two areas: the proportion of families under the Low-Income Measure, and the proportion of students with at least one parent who has graduated from university. For the sake of comparison, we refer to these as *high* and *low* poverty schools, and *high* and *low* parental education schools.

17. Translated from French. Original comment: "Les communautés plus aisées reçoivent plusieurs dons des familles, donc il est plus facile de gérer son budget d'école. Donc, les élèves de familles aisées ont une école remplies d'outils et de matériel neufs tandis que les écoles avec une clientèle plus pauvre, doivent attendre beaucoup plus longtemps pour amasser des fonds pour leur atteindre leur objectif."

Our school raises only a fraction of what other more affluent schools raise. It does have an effect on what we can/ cannot do and support.

Elementary school, Waterloo Catholic DSB

The wealthier communities receive many donations from families, so it is easier to manage their school budget. Therefore, students from welloff families have a school filled with new tools and equipment while schools with students from poorer families have to wait much longer to raise money to reach their goal.¹⁷

Elementary school, CSD catholique de l'Est ontarien In *high poverty schools*, the median amount fundraised was half that of *low poverty schools* (\$6,000 compared to \$12,000 per school). The amount fundraised per pupil also differed considerably: the average was \$27 per student in *high poverty schools* compared to \$44 in *low poverty schools*.

The survey findings also show that family income affects what schools fundraise for (see Figure 7.2). These differences are most apparent in fundraising for school libraries and the arts.

Activity and athletic fees in secondary schools

Extracurricular activities are often associated with better learning (Farb & Matjasko, 2012) and well-being (Ferguson & Powers, 2014) among students. Most secondary schools offer a wide variety of extracurricular activities and sports programs, and most of these programs have costs associated with them that are not covered by school budgets.

Many secondary schools rely on student fees to cover the cost of enrichment activities. In 2018, 87% of secondary schools report charging student activity fees. While the average activity fee is \$46 per student per year, schools report fees ranging from \$2 to \$300 per year.

The Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Guideline states: "Every student has the right to attend a school, where they are a qualified resident pupil, without the payment of a fee." (Ontario, 2011, p. 1). While the vast majority of secondary schools report that they charge activity fees, many principals commented that the fees are voluntary.

Fundraising results in Have and Have Not [schools]... We do not have field trips and performances in school on a par with other wealthier schools... We have to spend a great deal of time sourcing community partnerships to make up for lack of funds.

Elementary school, York Region DSB

Figure 7.2



Percentage of elementary schools that report fundraising for specific initiatives



having to subsidize for athletics. Students that can't afford the fees, transportation costs continue to increase, referee fees continue to increase and costs for being successful (playoffs, OFSAA) are also increasing. Our budgets aren't.

Secondary school, Peel DSB

Because we are a rural school, sports teams have to travel, so busing impacts the costs greatly.

Secondary school, Upper Grand DSB Athletic fees can be much higher than activity fees, with some secondary schools charging up to \$1200. Eighty percent of secondary schools report charging athletic fees in 2018, and the average fee is \$94.

The geography of fees

Secondary schools in urban areas are more likely to charge student activity fees, but less likely to charge a fee for athletics than secondary schools in rural areas (see Figure 7.3). The average amount charged follows a similar pattern. In terms of student activity fees, the average amount charged by secondary schools in urban areas is \$50, compared to \$40 in rural areas. However, the average athletic fee in urban areas is \$88, compared to \$103 in rural areas.

This may be, at least in part, due to the increased transportation costs for remote schools travelling to and from games and sports competitions. In their comments, principals report that busing is costly and contributes to the need for fees, especially in rural areas.

Fundraising and equity—a wicked problem

While it is clear from principals' comments, and from extensive research, that fundraising can be an effective component of community engagement (Winton, 2016), it also raises significant questions about equity in the system.



Figure 7.3

Percentage of secondary schools that charge fees

Research has shown that when children enter school, there is a "competency gap" between students from high and low socio-economic status backgrounds in areas such as physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge (Janus & Duku, 2007). Providing enriched learning opportunities and extra-curricular activities—along with a system-wide emphasis on vital competencies beyond reading, writing and mathematics—can close this "competency gap."

Students in high-poverty schools may currently face a triple disadvantage:

- Many may be starting school with a "competency gap."
- The schools they are entering are likely to raise less money, and therefore are less able to provide the resources and enriched learning opportunities that can help close that gap.
- Their families may not be able to provide these opportunities outside of school.

Recommendations

Enrichment experiences help students develop skills and competencies they might not get from classroom learning alone (Upitis, 2014). However, our survey results show that principals often rely on fundraising and fees to provide these learning experiences; and schools with higher rates of poverty, where fundraising is lower, may not be able to provide the same level of enrichment as their wealthier counterparts.

Parents want to provide the best opportunities for their children. But if the system is to provide every child with an equitable chance for success, all students—not just those whose parents can afford it—must have access to the programs, resources, and activities that build vital competencies for long-term success.

People for Education recommends that the province:

- Identify and fund foundational learning opportunities and supports, including things like arts enrichment, extracurricular activities (including field trips and sports), and technology, that allow students to develop the competencies they need for long-term success.
- Update Ontario's guidelines for fees and fundraising to clearly and concretely articulate what should be present in all schools, at no cost to parents.

Childcare

In 2018:

- Of the schools with kindergarten, the percentage reporting on-site childcare for kindergartenaged children has increased from 47% in 2012 to 80% in 2018—an all-time high in the history of the survey.
- 90% of elementary schools with a higher proportion of parents who have graduated from university offer childcare, compared to only 66% of schools with lower proportions of universityeducated parents.
- The percentage of elementary schools reporting family support programs (EarlyON centres) dropped from 36% in 2015 to 28% in 2018.
- 50% of elementary schools report working with childcare organizations "often".

We have a great partnership with the childcare providers in our school. Most of the families have students in our school, so it is very convenient for parents.

Elementary school, Rainbow DSB Research shows that development during the early years has long-term impact on success later in life. High-quality pre-schools have been tied to greater economic outcomes, lower crime, and better family relations (Schweinhart et al., 2005). Over the past several years, the Ministry of Education has recognized the importance of early childhood programs (Ontario, 2012a), and has worked to improve access to childcare and early childhood education.

However, this year's survey data shows that there may not be equitable access to these vital programs across the province.

Public schools—the ideal location for childcare

For most families, the local school is the ideal location for early childhood education programs and before- and after-school care. It makes drop-off and pick-up simpler for parents, and it can ease the transition from school to care for students.

The province has identified schools as the preferred location for childcare (Ontario, 2012a, p.4), and provincial policy stipulates that "school boards are required to ensure the provision of a before-andafter school program for every elementary school serving students in the primary and/or junior division (i.e. from Kindergarten to Grade 6) where there is sufficient demand and/or viability" (Ontario, 2017b, p.3).

These policies appear to have had an impact. This year's survey results show that more schools are offering on-site childcare:

- Of the schools with kindergarten, the percentage reporting on-site childcare for kindergarten-aged children increased from 47% in 2012 to 80% in 2018.
- The percentage of elementary schools reporting on-site childcare for children in grades 1 to 6 increased from 55% in 2012 to 80% in 2018.

These figures represent an all-time high in the history of the survey (see Figure 8.1). The increase coincides with the phased-in introduction of full-day kindergarten and requirements for before-and-after school programs articulated in provincial policy.





Percentage of schools offering childcare for school-aged children

Inequitable access to childcare

While the survey data show that more schools are offering onsite childcare, access to this vital service may be limited in schools with higher rates of poverty, as well as in schools with lower proportions of university-educated parents.

This year, we used information from Statistics Canada and Ontario's Ministry of Education to examine the relationship between students' family background and a range of resources and programs in schools. We compared the top and bottom 25% of our elementary school sample in two areas: the proportion of families under the Low-Income Measure, and the proportion of students with at least one parent who has graduated from university. For the sake of comparison, we refer to these as *high* and *low* poverty schools, and *high* and *low* parental education schools.

In 2018, schools with low parental education, and those with high levels of poverty, are less likely to have childcare (see Figure 8.2).

This year, many principals commented that even though there is demand for childcare, the fees charged make it unaffordable for their community.

Equitable access to childcare is also an issue for schools in rural communities. Only 72% of rural schools report having childcare available in the school, as compared to 83% of urban schools.

Interest is there, but program is cost prohibitive.

Elementary school, Huron Perth CDSB

The daycare providers have pulled out of the school as families cannot afford to pay the fees, or do not know how to access subsidies, so numbers are too low and fees are often unpaid.

Elementary school, York Region DSB We also have an Early Learning Program in the mornings only for 2 and 3 year olds. The biggest challenge is finding a space that meets the Ministry needs for them - currently they are sharing a bathroom with our students because we don't have the funds to build a bathroom facility in the Best Start room.

Elementary school, Lambton Kent DSB

Family support programs in schools

As with childcare, schools can also be the ideal location for family support programs. Programs such as Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, Best Start programs, and Early Years Centres do not provide childcare, but instead provide young families with essential resources, learning opportunities, and support. Parents and children participate in these programs together.

Ontario is in the process of combining all of the child and family programs funded by the Ministry of Education into one model, to be provided through local EarlyON centres (Ontario, 2016a).

According to the survey data, the overall percentage of Ontario schools with family support programs has dropped from 36% in 2015 to 28% in 2018. The decline may be partly due to the restructuring, but may also be a result of an expansion in childcare funding and improved access to childcare programs.

Interestingly, rural schools are more likely to report having these types of programs. While 33% of rural schools report a family support program, only 25% of urban schools offer them. Elementary schools with higher levels of poverty, and those with lower proportions of universityeducated parents, are also more likely to have family support programs.

Figure 8.2

Schools with higher poverty and lower parental education have less childcare



Figure 8.3

Frequency that elementary schools connect or work with childcare organizations



Working together – sharing space and making connections

As childcare is integrated into more Ontario schools, schools are working to find ways to share limited space with childcare providers.

On this year's survey, we asked schools how frequently they connect or work with childcare organizations – sharing resources, co-planning, sharing space, and supporting students. The majority of elementary schools (81%) report at least some connection, with 50% of schools reporting that they "often" work together (see Figure 8.3).

While most schools report working with childcare organizations, many principals commented that sharing space can be a challenge.

Equity and childcare

The experiences and learning environments that a child is exposed to during early childhood are linked to their cognitive, social, and emotional development (Mustard, McCain, & McCuaig, 2013). Investments in high-quality early years programs are among the most effective ways to support children's development in these areas, and can lead to more equitable education outcomes for all students (OECD, 2012). Our school doesn't offer childcare, but we partner with an on-site external daycare that uses our facilities before and after school. It can be a challenge to share classrooms, as teachers and ECEs can't have time to plan and set up their room for the teaching day without children being there.

Elementary school, Waterloo Region DSB

Sharing the premises is not always easy for the school staff (planning, organization for the next day...)¹⁸

Elementary school, Conseil des écoles catholique du Centre-Est

18. Translated from French. Original comment: "Partager les locaux n'est pas toujours chose facile pour le personnel de l'école (planification, organisation pour le lendemain...)"

Recommendations

Given the significant role that quality childcare programs play in supporting young students' development, all families should have access to these resources. Unfortunately, our data show that families with greater social capital—higher income and higher levels of education—appear to have greater access to childcare. The variation in access to childcare programs means that they may not be available to the families who need them most.

People for Education recommends that the province:

• Continue to make changes to funding and policy focused on childcare and early childhood education, in order to address current inequities in access, and to ensure that childcare is available at a reasonable or subsidized cost in all elementary schools where parents request it.

Beyond the school walls: Connecting to community supports

It is often said that "schools can't do it alone." According to Dr. Nina Bascia (2014), the places where students learn should be viewed as a series of nested and interacting environments: classrooms within schools, and schools within communities.

Schools rely on their community partners to provide much-needed support in many areas outside of academic learning. By working with community organizations such as Public Health, mental health services, and municipal recreation programs, schools are reaching beyond their walls to access the resources, supports, and broader learning experiences that may not be available within the school. These community connections support students' learning and growth, and help to ensure their success, both at school and beyond.

Results from a 2018 survey conducted by Ophea—a non-profit organization that supports health and physical education in Ontario found that the majority (65%) of parents agree that their children's schools engage with the broader community around it. In our survey, many principals commented that one of their greatest school successes is related to having a strong and supportive relationship with their community. They report working with a range of community partners to provide resources and support for their students.

[Our school] is a fantastic community based school. We have a very dedicated staff who bring their passion to the job every day. Our students feel like they are part of a family and they come to school excited to face the challenges of the day. The school council works hand in hand with staff to support the learning needs of the students and was instrumental in starting a school wide snack program for the students.

Elementary school, Toronto DSB

In 2018:

- 19% of elementary schools and 18% of secondary schools report that they have a staff member (other than the principal or vice-principal) acting as a community liaison.
- Elementary schools in urban areas are more likely to have a community liaison than those in rural areas.
- 94% of elementary and 100% of secondary schools collaborate with mental health care services.



are benefiting greatly from the ESL program. Our Nutrition Program invites parents and guardians to volunteer. We collaborate well with our Public Health Nurse and Police Liaison Officers. Strong sense of community and community partnerships.

Elementary school, Toronto Catholic DSB

Social services are extremely overwhelmed—we have far too many students with needs and not enough service providers to meet them. Local community agencies are terrific—the local library and recreation facilities do a great deal for us and join us at every opportunity.

Elementary school, Lambton Kent DSB

Creating "Quality Learning Environments" the role of school-community connections

As part of an ongoing research initiative, People for Education has been working with experts from across Canada to define vital competencies and skills in health, social-emotional learning, creativity, and citizenship. This research also identifies conditions in the classroom, school, and community that support student growth in these areas (Bascia, 2014). Among the most important are "school-community relationships [that] focus on students' well-being, promote cross-cultural perspectives, and provide a range of diverse learning opportunities for students" (People for Education, 2018b).

In her paper on quality learning environments, Dr. Nina Bascia outlines several important areas in relation to school-community partnerships. She argues that rich school-community relations can contribute to curriculum learning, bring deeper involvement of community into schools, support experiential learning and ongoing student mentorship, support appreciation of diversity, and increase awareness for students on where to access programs and services that support issues related to mental illness, bullying, and substance abuse (Bascia, 2014).

Working together for student success

This year, we asked schools how frequently they connect or work with certain groups, by sharing resources, co-planning, sharing space, or supporting students. Principals report a wide range of connections, from sharing the school building with a community centre to bringing in drug and alcohol intervention programs for students.

According to the survey findings, schools connect most often with organizations that support student health and well-being. Almost all elementary and secondary principals report connections with social services, mental health care services, and Public Health.

The high proportion of schools that report connecting "often" or "sometimes" with these community resources may reflect the increasing demand for mental health and social service supports for students. Even though 94% of elementary schools and 100% of secondary schools report they connect sometimes or often with mental health providers, the survey results indicate that this may still be insufficient: 13% of elementary and 8% of secondary principals report that mental health services are inaccessible. Many principals included additional comments about limited access to these resources.

The survey results show that elementary and secondary schools access different types of services to meet their specific needs. For example, elementary schools are much more likely than secondary schools to report using childcare services (81% compared to 20%). Among secondary schools, 90% of the respondents report connections with youth employment programs (see Figure 9.1).

Figure 9.1

Percentage of schools that report connecting with the following community groups

Community group	Elementary	Secondary
Childcare	81%	20%
Indigenous organizations	56%	79%
Mental health care services	94%	100%
Municipal recreation programs	80%	84%
Public Health	97%	99%
Public library	79%	62%
Settlement programs	46%	51%
Social services	93%	98%
Youth employment	N/A	90%

Different communities, different needs

School communities in Ottawa or Toronto have different needs from those in Wingham or Elliot Lake, and the community resources they use reflect those differences. In their comments, many survey participants note that in rural areas, the distance between the school and the community limits access to some of these supports. Principals in French language boards also note that it can sometimes be difficult to access services in French.

In 2018, elementary schools in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) are over four times as likely to connect with settlement programs as those in Northern Ontario (see Figure 9.2). This is not surprising, given that three in ten newcomers to Canada settle in the GTA (Bonikowska, Hou, & Picot, 2015).

The survey findings also show that elementary schools in Northern Ontario are more likely to connect or work with Indigenous organizations than those in the GTA. Again, this may be due to differences in population makeup. Although the majority of Indigenous people across Canada live in urban areas (Statistics Canada, 2017), the proportion of Indigenous students per school is higher in Northern Ontario than in the GTA (People for Education, 2013). The geography of a large rural board with services sometimes significant distances away, and a lack of transportation for families, can be a barrier to many families' access to these services.

Elementary school, Avon Maitland DSB

Rural school – no services in the village other than recreation.

Elementary school, Simcoe County DSB

The majority of [community] groups do not speak French.¹⁹

Elementary school, Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales

19. Translated from French. Original comment: "La majorité de ces groupes ne parlent pas en français."

Services in French are unavailable or very minimally available. It is left up to previous and current administration to find organizations and establish links. The work is done by administration.²⁰

Elementary school, Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir

Community liaison staff—the impact of family income and geography

Community liaisons are responsible for a range of tasks, from promoting school events to the community to connecting new families to social services and running parent engagement events. In 2018, 19% of elementary schools and 18% of secondary schools report that they have a staff member (other than the principal or vice-principal) acting as a community liaison. Among elementary schools, this is substantially lower than in the previous two years (six percentage points lower than in 2016); and among secondary schools, it is a record low. Furthermore, most of these liaison positions do not have any full-time equivalent (FTE) allocated to them, which means that they are not designated positions, but additional responsibilities taken on voluntarily by staff.

This year, we used information from Statistics Canada and Ontario's Ministry of Education to examine the relationship between students' family background and a range of resources and programs in schools. We compared the top and bottom 25% of our elementary school sample in terms of the proportion of families under the Low-Income Measure. For the sake of comparison, we refer to these as *high* and *low* poverty schools.

The survey findings show that *high poverty schools* are more likely to have a community liaison than *low poverty schools*. This is likely in response to community needs, as families living below the Low-Income Measure may have greater need for support in accessing services.

Geographic variations are also evident in the survey data. Elementary schools in urban areas are more likely to have a community liaison than those in rural areas (21% vs. 17%), and schools in urban areas with a liaison are more likely to have staff time allocated to that role.



Figure 9.2

20. Translated from French. Original comment: "Les services en français sont indisponibles ou très peu disponibles. C'est laissé à la découverte par la direction précédente et actuelle d'établir des liens et de trouver des solutions de type service. Le travail est fait par la direction."

Recommendations

The province lacks clear policy to support greater integration of services and more effective cooperation between education and other levels of government. In 2015, the Premier appointed an Advisory Committee on Community Hubs to make recommendations about how to address some of the barriers to the integration of services and the development of community hubs (often in schools), so that public buildings can provide greater and more effective access to all services, including education (Advisory Committee on Community Hubs, 2015). The Advisory Committee made a number of recommendations, and outlined a need for:

- "Clear leadership that can cut across multiple ministries and agencies"
- Dedicated resources to build greater alignment and integration in planning and delivery of services
- Public sector reform and renewal to support policy-makers and public servants in working together across sectors and levels of government.

Chief among the recommendations of the Advisory Committee was that the province move responsibility for community hubs to the Treasury Board Secretariat, in order to provide an "acrossgovernment" responsibility for the work (Advisory Committee on Community Hubs, personal communication, January 9, 2018).

People for Education recommends that the province:

- Act on all of the recommendations from the Premier's Advisory Committee.
- Develop a formula to fund community liaison staff in schools.

Methods

People for Education's data

Unless cited from other sources, the statistics and quoted material in this report originate from People for Education's 21st Annual Survey (2017/18) of Ontario's elementary schools, and 18th Annual Survey of Ontario's secondary schools. Surveys were mailed and emailed to principals in every publicly funded school in Ontario in the fall of 2017. Surveys could be completed in both English and French.

This year, we received 1,244 responses from elementary and secondary schools in 70 of Ontario's 72 publicly funded school boards, representing 22% of the province's publicly funded schools. Survey responses are also disaggregated to examine survey representation across provincial regions (see Figure 10.1). Regional representation in this year's survey corresponds relatively well with the regional distribution of Ontario's schools.

Figure 10.1

Survey representation by region

Region (by postal code)	Percentage of schools in sample	Percentage of schools in Ontario
Eastern (K)	19%	18%
Central (L exclud. GTA)	15%	17%
Southwest (N)	21%	20%
Northern (P)	13%	11%
GTA	32%	34%

Other provincial data

Data collected from the survey was also matched with school-level data provided by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) and Statistics Canada via the Ontario Ministry of Education's School Information Finder.

Data provided by EQAO came from the student selfreport questionnaires, which were completed during the grades 3, 6, 9, and 10 provincial assessments in spring 2017. Data from Statistics Canada included the estimated percentage of children attending each school whose families' after-tax income was below the Low-Income Measure for their family type and size; and the estimated percentage of children attending each school who have at least one parent whose highest certificate, degree, or diploma is from a university. These data were based on the 2011 National Household Survey.

School-level data from external sources were matched by MIDENT (school identification number) to People for Education's principal responses for analysis.



Figure 10.2

Survey respondents by board

- 1

Algoma DSB	10
Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB	5
Avon Maitland DSB	21
Bluewater DSB	17
Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB	6
Bruce-Grey CDSB	4
CEC du Centre-Est	20
CEP de l'Est de l'Ontario	24
CSC Franco-Nord	8
CSC Providence	10
CSDC Centre-Sud (MonAvenir)	19
CSDC de l'Est ontarien	14
CSDC des Aurores boréales	5
CSDC des Grandes Rivières	16
CSDC du Nouvel-Ontario	9
CSD du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	14
CSD du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	5
CViamonde	21
DSB of Niagara	12
DSB Ontario North East	6
Dufferin-Peel CDSB	27
Durham CDSB	6
Durham DSB	9
Grand Erie DSB	21
Greater Essex County DSB	18
Halton CDSB	5
Halton DSB	28
Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB	8
Hamilton-Wentworth DSB	18
Hastings & Prince Edward DSB	7
Huron Perth CDSB	6
Huron-Superior CDSB	6
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB	46
Keewatin-Patricia DSB	6
Lakehead DSB	10
Lambton Kent DSB	29

Limestone DSB	14
London DCSB	4
Near North DSB	9
Niagara CDSB	4
Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB	7
Northeastern CDSB	3
Northwest CDSB	2
Ottawa CSB	15
Ottawa-Carleton DSB	44
Peel DSB	51
Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington CDSB	4
Rainbow DSB	25
Rainy River DSB	3
Renfrew County CDSB	4
Renfrew County DSB	8
Simcoe County DSB	60
Simcoe Muskoka CDSB	28
St. Clair CDSB	5
Sudbury CDSB	2
Superior North CDSB	1
Superior-Greenstone DSB	4
Thames Valley DSB	27
Thunder Bay CDSB	4
Toronto CDSB	54
Toronto DSB	140
Trillium Lakelands DSB	15
Upper Canada DSB	36
Upper Grand DSB	40
Waterloo CDSB	12
Waterloo Region DSB	35
Wellington CDSB	4
Windsor-Essex CDSB	9
York CDSB	32
York Region DSB	42
Other School Authority	1

Data analysis and reporting

Qualitative data analysis was conducted using inductive analysis. Researchers read responses and coded emergent themes in each set of data (i.e. the responses to each of the survey's open-ended questions).

The quantitative analyses in this report are based on both descriptive and inferential statistics. The chief objective of the descriptive analyses is to present numerical information in an illuminating format that is accessible to a broad public readership. All data were analyzed using SPSS statistical software.

For geographic comparisons, schools were classified as either rural or urban (including both urban and suburban areas) using postal codes. Rural schools are located in jurisdictions with under 75,000 people and not contiguous to an urban centre greater than 75,000 people. All other schools were classified as urban schools. Based on scholarly literature and governmental sources, it was determined that a population of 75,000 persons provided the most accurate dividing line between small town/rural and urban/suburban areas in the Ontario provincial context.

Calculations have been rounded to the nearest whole number and may not amount to 100% in displays of disaggregated categories. Where significant shifts were found in year-over-year comparisons, the trends were confirmed by a comparison with the sample of repeating schools. The average student to staff ratio was calculated for schools that reported both the total number of students and the full-time equivalents for staff positions. All survey responses and data are kept confidential and stored in conjunction with Tri-Council recommendations for the safeguarding of data.

Surveys

People for Education

2017/2018 Elementary School Survey

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Each participating school will receive an electronic copy of this report.

Please submit the survey by November 20th, 2017

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People for Education, 641 Bloor St W., Toronto, Ontario, M6G 1L1 Fax: 416-536-0100 Web site: www.peopleforeducation.ca

Individual school responses will remain confidential. Only overall results will be published.

District School Board:	
School:	
MIDENT (school identifica	tion number):
Number of students:	
School address:	
City:	Postal code:
Phone: ()	
School email:	
Contact person:	

Please tell us the **total** number of staff positions, counted **in full-time equivalents** (**FTEs**). For example, one full-time or two half-time positions equal 1.0 FTE; if a person works 4 days a week, this equals 0.8 FTE; a half-time position equals 0.5 FTE; one day a week equals 0.2 FTE, etc.

1. SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Grades taught: ______ to _____

Total teacher FTEs: _____

2. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal:	total FTEs	Ho
Vice-principal(s):	total FTEs	

ow many sites is the principal responsible for? _____] none

There are many important facets to your role as a principal. When thinking about your job overall, please <u>rank</u> the following tasks based on how much time they take, from 1 to 7 (with 1 being the most time-consuming and 7 being the least time-consuming).

RANK the following activities:	Not applicable
Supporting professional learning and improving the instructional program	
Completing the School Improvement Plan	
Provincial and board/system initiatives (communications, documentation, and meetings related to policy and programs, etc.)	
Managing staff (human resources functions and collective agreement implementation)	
Managing individual student issues	
Managing facilities	
Community and parent relationships	

Please describe any successes or challenges with the role of administration at your school:

3. ARTS EDUCATION

Specialist Music teacher(s) (not including itinerants):	Indicate which opportunities your students will have this year: (Select all that apply)
total FTEs 🛛 none	Iearn an instrument in school hours
If yes, do they have advanced training (e.g. an AQ, degree, or PD)?	perform or display their art (e.g. plays, art shows, dance performances)
Itinerant Music teachers/instructors: 🛛 yes 🛛 no	\square participate in a choir, band, or orchestra
If yes, do they have advanced training (e.g. an AQ, degree, or PD)? □ yes □ no Specialist Visual Arts teacher(s):	□ work with an artist or other professional from outside of the school □ see a live artistic performance □ none Please indicate whether your school has a room designated and equipped for instruction in the following arts subjects: (e.g. a room where all Music instruction takes place, or a specialized space for Drama) Music: □ □ yes □ Dance: □ yes □ no Drama: □ □ yes □ no Visual arts: □

Please describe any successes or challenges with arts education at your school: ______

Health	and Physical Edu	ication (H&PE) teache	er(s): to	otal FTEs	🗖 nor	ie		
Please		ave advanced training cesses or challenges v			🗖 yes		🗖 no	
Does ye	our school have fa U yes	RT AND CHILD amily support program	ns ? (e.g. Parenting a	-	-	_		
		hildcare and/or exten		on school	grounds?	🗖 yes	L	no
Presc		Icare programs that yo	all day (school	hours)	after sch	ool 🛛 y	ear round	
Kinde	rgarten aged	before school	after school	🛛 year i	round			
Grade	s 1-6	before school	after school	U year i	round			
Please	describe any succ	cesses or challenges v				hool:		
6 50	ECIAL EDUC							
		er(s):		none				
	education assist	ant(s) (EAs): n of the school's EAs a	total FTEs	none	l education?			
Total nu	all all all		some] none ort: #	• we	have no EA		
	-	dents waiting for asse			∠: #yes		D no	
	ii you nave stat	Are they receiving			u yes		no no	
Is there	a restriction on t	he number of student					no no	
		commend that a stude				l school for	the full da	ny? 🛛 yes 🗖 no
Please		safety 🔲 student I cesses or challenges v						
Does ye	f yes , please india PD for staff a	ny Indigenous educati cate which Indigenous around Indigenous cul guest speakers D Co	education opportu tural issues Cul	nities you Itural supp	ort program	Indigen	ous langua	age program
Do you Please	have any staff m	embers at your schoo cesses or challenges v	I who self-identify a vith Indigenous edu	ns Indigeno cation at y	ous? 🔲 yes our school: _	no 🗖	-	
8. GU	IDANCE							
Guidan	ce counsellor(s)/t	teacher(s):	total FTEs	none				
	f yes, do they hav	ve advanced training (e.g. an AQ, degree,	or PD)?		🗖 yes	[no
lf you h time th	ave a guidance co ey take, from 1 to	ounsellor/teacher, in the 4 (with 1 being the mo	ninking about their o ost time-consuming	overall role and 4 beii	e, please <u>ranl</u> ng the least t	the follow	ing tasks l ning).	based on how much
RANK t	he following activ	vities:	5		5		57	Not applicable
	•	n-one counselling to s						
	with students, so	ning and academics (e chool applications)	-		-			
	Collaborating wi child and youth	th teachers, professio workers)	nals, and paraprofe	ssionals (e	.g. social wor	kers, psych	ologists,	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	iour-related interventi	ons (e.g classroom (disruptions	s, bullying)			

Please describe any successes or challenges with guidance at your school:

4. HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

	ts	e following? (Se classro initiatives	om/lab m	naterials	🗖 schoo	-		
Please describe any successes o								
10. SCHOOL-COMMUNI Is there a staff member (other that	an the pri	incipal or vice- es 🔲 no				-	_	ınity?
If yes , what is t	the FTE a	allotted solely t	o this pos	sition?		total FTEs	🗖 none	
How frequently does your schoo groups? (e.g. sharing resources, students)				pporting	groups?		cessible are the	
	Often	Sometimes	Never	Not available	Very accessible	Fairly accessible	Inaccessible	Don't know
Childcare								
	_	_				_		
Indigenous organizations								
Indigenous organizations Mental health care providers								
5 5			_					_
Mental health care providers								
Mental health care providers Municipal recreation programs								
Mental health care providers Municipal recreation programs Public Health								
Mental health care providers Municipal recreation programs Public Health Public library								

11. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Is there anything more you want to add or tell us about your school? What are the major successes and/or challenges in your school? Please attach a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.

This survey was developed by People for Education, The Metro Parent Network, and parent groups from across Ontario.People for Education, 641 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON M6G 1L1Phone: 416 534 0100Fax: 416 536 0100Email: info@peopleforeducation.caWebsite: www.peopleforeducation.caFax: 416 536 0100

People for Education

2017-2018 Sondage auprès des écoles élémentaires

People for Education, champion de l'éducation à financement public, engage le dialogue et la recherche pour faire le lien entre une éducation solide et une société juste et prospère.

Avec l'aide des directrices et directeurs d'école de toute la province, nous menons des sondages annuels pour cerner les effets des changements de politiques et du financement sur les programmes et les ressources des écoles ontariennes. Les résultats sont publiés dans un rapport basé sur les données recueillies grâce au sondage.

Chaque école participante recevra un exemplaire électronique de ce rapport.

Veuillez remplir le sondage en ligne à : http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/research/school-surveys

Veuillez soumettre vos réponses au plus tard le 20 novembre 2017.

Si vous n'êtes pas en mesure de remplir le sondage en ligne, veuillez l'envoyer par la poste ou par télécopie à : **People for Education, 641, rue Bloor Ouest, Toronto (Ontario), M6G 1L1 Téléc. :** 416-536-0100 **Site Web :** www.peopleforeducation.ca

Les réponses propres aux écoles individuelles demeureront confidentielles. Seuls les résultats d'ensemble seront publiés.

Conseil scolaire de district :	
École :	
Numéro d'identification de l'école :	
Nombre d'élèves :	
Adresse :	
Ville :	Code postal :
Tél.:()	
Adresse électronique de l'école :	
Personne-ressource :	

Lorsque vous répondez aux questions concernant le personnel, veuillez indiquer le nombre total de postes en termes d'équivalents à temps plein (ETP). Par exemple, un poste à temps plein ou deux postes à mi-temps = 1 ETP; quatre jours par semaine = 0,8 ETP; un poste à mi-temps = 0,5 ETP; un jour par semaine = 0,2 ETP, etc.

1. VUE D'ENSEMBLE DE L'ÉCOLE

Niveaux scolaires : _____à ____à _____à _____à _____a total ETP

2. ADMINISTRATION DE L'ÉCOLE

Directeur ou directrice : ______ total ETP Combien d'établissements scolaires relèvent du directeur ou de la directrice d'école? _____ Directeur adjoint ou directrice adjointe : total ETP aucun

Votre rôle à la direction d'école comporte plusieurs facettes importantes. Lorsque vous pensez à l'ensemble de votre travail, veuillez classer les tâches suivantes de 1 à 7 selon le temps qu'elles requièrent (1 étant la tâche qui requiert le plus de temps et 7 celle qui en requiert le moins).

Veuillez classer les activités suivantes :	Sans objet
Appuyer le perfectionnement professionnel et l'amélioration du programme d'enseignement	
Élaborer le Plan d'amélioration de l'école	
Donner suite aux initiatives de la province et du conseil/système scolaire (communications, documentation et rencontres liées aux politiques et programmes, etc.)	
Gérer le personnel (fonctions liées aux ressources humaines et mise en œuvre des ententes collectives)	
Gérer les questions touchant des élèves en particulier	
Gérer les installations	
Maintenir les relations avec la communauté et les parents	

Des réussites ou des défis relativement à l'administration de votre école?

3. ÉDUCATION ARTISTIQUE

Enseignants ou enseignantes spécialistes en musique (sans

inclure le personnel itinérant) :	
total ETP 🛛 aucun	Indiquez quelles possibilités éducatives seront offertes à vos
Si oui, ces personnes ont-elles une formation avancée	élèves cette année. (Cochez tout ce qui s'applique)
	 élèves cette année. (Cochez tout ce qui s'applique) apprendre à jouer d'un instrument pendant les heures de classe se produire sur scène ou exposer une oeuvre (p. ex. pièces de théâtre, expositions d'art, spectacles de danse) participer à une chorale, une fanfare ou un orchestre travailler avec un ou une artiste ou autre professionnel ou professionnelle de l'extérieur de l'école assister à un spectacle aucune Veuillez indiquer si votre école dispose d'un local désigné et équipé pour l'enseignement des disciplines artistiques suivantes : (p. ex. tous les cours de musique y sont donnés ou il s'agit d'un lieu spécialisé pour l'art dramatique)
🗖 moins de 500 \$ 🗖 500 \$ à 999 \$	Musique : 🛛 oui 🗖 non
□ 1 000 \$ à 1 999 \$ □ 2 000 \$ à 4 999 \$	Danse: 🗌 oui 🔲 non
	Théâtre : 🔲 oui 🔲 non
5 000 \$ ou plus (veuillez préciser) :\$	Arts visuels : 🔲 oui 📙 non

Des succès ou des défis relativement à l'éducation artistique à votre école?

4. SANTÉ							
Enseignantes ou enseignants spécialistes de l'éducation physique et santé : total ETP 🛛 🗖 aucun							
Si oui, ces personnes ont-elles 🛛 une formation avancée (p. ex. QA, diplôme ou PP)? 🗖 oui 🛛 non							
Des succès ou des	défis relativement	à la santé?					
		SERVICES DE GARDE les d'appui à la famille? (p. ex. C	entre de formation a	u rôle parental et de l	ittératie pour les		
familles, Centre de							
Votre école offre-t-	elle des services d	e garde et/ou des programmes	de jour prolongé da	ns ses locaux?	🛛 oui 🗖 non		
Cochez tous les se	ervices de garde of	ferts à votre école.					
	1	_	1				
Préscolaire (18 mois à 4 ans)	avant l'école	☐ pendant les heures d'école	après l'école	□ à l'année			
Maternelle/jardin	avant l'école	après l'école	a l'année]			
1 ^{re} à 6 ^e année	avant l'école	après l'école	□ à l'année				
Des succès ou des	défis relativement	à l'appui à la famille et aux serv	ices de garde?]			
6. ÉDUCATIO	N DE L'ENFAI	NCE EN DIFFICULTÉ					
		fance en difficulté :	total ETP	🗖 aucun			
Aides-enseignants	s ou aides-enseign	antes de l'enfance en difficulté s-enseignants et aides-enseigna	: total E		nfance en difficulté?		
Nombre total d'élè	ves qui recoivent u	ins □ aucun □ Nous n'avon n quelconque service d'éducat nent une évaluation? #	ion de l'enfance en d	difficulté : #	eignantes lacement? #		
		ine évaluation, ont-ils un PEI?		· _ · ·			
		rvice d'éducation de l'enfance e					
		élèves qui peuvent être évalués					
		eve ayant des besoins particulie			ée ? □ oui □ non		
Si oui, pourquoi?	🕽 sécurité 🗖 san	té de l'élève 🛛 soutien néces nt à l'éducation de l'enfance en	saire non disponible	(veuillez préciser)			
7. ÉDUCATIO	N DES AUTO	CHTONES					
		'éducation des Autochtones? Illes. (Cochez tout ce qui s'appli	que)	non 🗆			
Perfection	onnement professio	onnel du personnel sur les ques	tions culturelles auto	ochtones 🛛 Program	me de soutien culturel		
		nt des langues autochtones 🛛					
Consulta	ation auprès des m	embres de la communauté auto	chtone sur les priori	tés éducatives 🛛 Ce	érémonies		
Autre : _							
		el de l'école s'auto-identifient contra l'éducation des Autochtone		oui 🗋 non			
8. ORIENTAT	ION						
		ation : total ETP					
Si vous avez des c	onseillers ou conse emps qu'elles requ	es une formation avancée (p. e: eillères en orientation, veuillez p ièrent (1 étant la tâche qui requi	enser à l'ensemble c	le leur rôle et classer	les tâches suivantes iert le moins). Sans objet		
I		es élèves ayant des besoins con	tinus en matière de	santé mentale.			
Appuyer le	es transitions (p. ex	. portfolio de cheminement, pla 'admission aux institutions post	ns d'itinéraire d'étuc				
Collabore	r avec des professi	onnels/professionnelles ou para vailleuses sociales, psychologu	professionnels/para				
	interventions liées	au comportement (p. ex. perturb	oations en classe, int	imidation)			
Des réussites ou d	es défis relativeme	nt à l'orientation à votre école?					

9. ACTIVITÉS DE FINANCEMENT ET FRAIS Environ combien d'argent les parents, les élèves et le personnel ont-ils recueilli pendant l'année scolaire 2016-2017?\$ Votre école organise-t-elle des activités de financement pour l'un ou l'autre des items suivants? (Cochez tout ce qui s'applique.)									
sports arts matériel scolaire/de laboratoire bibliothèque scolaire									
technologie	technologie initiatives de bienfaisance autre :								
Des réussites ou des défis	Des réussites ou des défis relativement aux activités de financement et aux frais?								
10. RELATIONS ÉCOLE-COMMUNAUTÉ Un membre du personnel (autre que la direction ou la direction adjointe) est-il responsable d'assurer la liaison avec la communauté ?									
Si oui , co	ombien de te	mps en ETI	P est alloué	é uniquement à c	ce poste?	total	ЕТР 🗖	aucun	
À quelle fréquence votre é les groupes suivants? (p. e conjointe, partage de loca	x. partage d	e ressourc			groupes ou s		ns quelle mesu s accessibles?		
	Souvent	Parfois	Jamais	Indisponible	Très accessible	Assez accessible	Inaccessible	Ne sais pas	
Bibliothèque publique									
Fournisseurs de soins de santé mentale									
Organismes autochtones									
Programmes d'aide à l'établissement									
Programmes de loisirs municipaux									
Santé publique									
Services de garde									
Services sociaux									
Autre :									
Des succès ou des défis en matière de relations école-communauté à votre école?									

11. COMMENTAIRES SUPPLÉMENTAIRES

Souhaitez-vous nous faire part de commentaires supplémentaires au sujet de votre école? Quels sont les principales réussites et/ou les principaux défis de votre école? Au besoin, veuillez joindre une feuille supplémentaire à ce formulaire.

Ce sondage a été préparé par People for Education, le Metro Parent Network et des groupes de parents de l'ensemble de l'Ontario. People for Education, 641, rue Bloor Ouest, Toronto (Ontario) M6G 1L1 **Tél. :** 416 534 0100 **Téléc. :** 416 536 0100 Courriel : mailto:info@peopleforeducation.ca Site Web : www.peopleforeducation.ca



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Individual school responses will remain confidential. Only overall results will be published.

District School Board:						
School:	School:					
MIDENT (school identification number):						
Number of students:						
School address:	School address:					
City:	Postal code:					
Phone: ()						
School email:						
Contact person:						

Please tell us the **total** number of staff positions, counted **in full-time equivalents** (**FTEs**). For example, one full-time or two half-time positions equal 1.0 FTE; if a person works 4 days a week, this equals 0.8 FTE; a half-time position equals 0.5 FTE; one day a week equals 0.2 FTE, etc.

1. SCHOOL OVER	VIEW
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Grades taught: to	
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Total teacher FTEs:

2. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal:	total FTEs
Vice-principal(s):	total FTEs

How many sites is the principal responsible for?

There are many important facets to your role as a principal. When thinking about your job overall, please <u>rank</u> the following tasks based on how much time they take, from 1 to 7 (with 1 being the most time-consuming and 7 being the least time-consuming).

RANK the following activities:			
Supporting professional learning and improving the instructional program			
Completing the School Improvement Plan			
Provincial and board/system initiatives (communications, documentation, and meetings related to policy and programs, etc.)			
Managing staff (human resources functions and collective agreement implementation)			
Managing individual student issues			
Managing facilities			
Community and parent relationships			

Please describe any successes or challenges with the role of administration at your school:

3. ARTS EDUCATION

Indicate which opportunities your students will have this	s year: (Select all that apply)
learn an instrument in school hours	perform or display their art (e.g. plays, art shows, dance performances)
D participate in a choir, band, or orchestra	\square work with an artist or other professional from outside of the school
see a live artistic performance	none
The school budget for Dance, Drama, Music, and Visua	al Arts is:
□ less than \$500 □ \$500-\$999 □ \$1000	-\$1999 🔲 \$2000-\$4999 🔲\$5000 or more
	(please specify: \$)
room where all Music instruction takes place, or a specia	ated and equipped for instruction in the following arts subjects: (e.g. a alized space for Drama)
Music: yes no	
Dance: 🛛 yes 🗖 no	
Drama: 🛛 yes 🗖 no	
Visual arts: 🛛 yes 🗍 no	
Does your school offer grade 11 or grade 12 level arts c	ourses in the following areas? (Select all that apply)
🗖 Dance 🗖 Drama 🗖 Exploring and creati	ng in the arts $\ \square$ Media arts $\ \square$ Music $\ \square$ Visual arts
□ None □ Don't have grades 11 or 12	
Please describe any successes or challenges with arts e	education at your school:

4. SPECIAL EDUC	ATION						
Special education teach	ner(s):	total FTEs	🗖 none				
Special education assis	tant(s) (EAs):	total FTEs	none 🗆				
What proportio	n of the school's E	As are assigned to	support special ed	ucation?			
🗖 all	🗖 most	some	none 🛛	ue have	no EAs		
Total number of student	s who receive any	special education	support: #				
How many students are	currently waiting fo	or assessment? #_	for IPRC? #	for pl	acement? #_		
lf you have stu	dents waiting for	assessment, do th	ney have IEPs?	🗖 yes	🗖 no		
	Are they receiv	ing special educat	tion support?	🗖 yes	🗖 no		
Is there a restriction on	the number of stuc	lents who can be a	assessed per year?	🗖 yes	🗖 no		
PD for staff	EDUCATION Iny Indigenous edu icate which Indiger around Indigenous	ucation opportuniti nous education op s cultural issues	ies?	nool offers: (Sel	no ect all that a digenous lar	ipply) nguage program	1
-			th Indigenous comm	-		ational priorities:	5
	s 🗖 Native Studie	es 🖵 Other:					
Do you have any staff m	embers at your so	:hool who self-ide	ntify as Indigenous?	🛛 yes 🗖	no		
Please describe any suc	cesses or challeng	es with Indigenou	s education at your	school:			
6. GUIDANCE							
Guidance counsellor(s)	'teacher(s):	total FTEs	🗖 none				
If yes, do they ha	ve advanced traini	ng (e.g. an AQ, de	gree, or PD)?		yes	🗖 no	

If you have a guidance counsellor/teacher, in thinking about their overall role, please <u>rank</u> the following tasks based on how much time they take, from 1 to 6 (with 1 being the most time-consuming and 6 being the least time-consuming).

RANK the following activities:			
Providing one-on-one counselling to students for mental health needs			
Supporting planning and academics (e.g. Individual Pathways Plans, course selection with students, post-secondary school applications)			
Collaborating with teachers, professionals, and paraprofessionals (e.g. social workers, psychologists, child and youth workers)			
Facilitating experiential learning opportunities (e.g. co-ops, internships, Dual Credits)			
Providing behaviour-related interventions (e.g classroom disruptions, bullying)			
Coordinating special education accommodations			

Please describe any successes or challenges with guidance at your school:

7. FUNDRAISING AND FEES								
Approximately how much money did parents, students, and staff fundraise in the 2016/17 school year? \$								
Does yo	our school fundrais	e for any of the fol	llowing? (Select a	II that apply)				
	□ sports	🗖 arts	Classroom/la	b materials	school library			
	technology	Charitable initi	atives	dther:		_		
How much is the Student Activity Fee this year (2017/18)? \$ there is no Student Activity Fee								
Do you have Athletic Fees ? yes no If yes, what is the range? (e.g. \$5 to \$25) to \$ to \$ Please describe any successes or challenges with fundraising or fees at your school:								

8. SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Is there a staff member (other than the principal or vice-principal) who is responsible for acting as a liaison with the community? □yes □no

If **yes**, what is the FTE allotted solely to this position? ______ total FTEs

none

Don't

know

How frequently does your school connect or work with the following group: (e.g. sharing resources, co-planning, sharing space, supporting students)						In your experience, how accessible are these groups?			
	Often	Sometimes	Never	Not	Very	Fairly	Inaccessible	C	
Olte		Sometimes	INCVCI	available	accessible	accessible	Indecessible	k	
Childcare									

Childcare				
Indigenous organizations				
Mental health care providers				
Municipal recreation programs				
Public Health				
Public library				
Settlement programs				
Social services				
Youth employment				
Other:				

Please describe any successes or challenges with school-community relations at your school:

9. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Is there anything more you want to add or tell us about your school? What are the major successes and/or challenges in your school? Please attach a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.

This survey was developed by People for Education, The Metro Parent Network, and parent groups from across Ontario.

People for Education, 641 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON M6G 1L1 **Phone:** 416 534 0100 Email: info@peopleforeducation.ca Website: www.peopleforeducation.ca

Fax: 416 536 0100

People for Education

2017-2018 Sondage auprès des écoles secondaires

People for Education, champion de l'éducation à financement public, engage le dialogue et la recherche pour faire le lien entre une éducation solide et une société juste et prospère.

Avec l'aide des directrices et directeurs d'école de toute la province, nous menons des sondages annuels pour cerner les effets des changements de politiques et du financement sur les programmes et les ressources des écoles ontariennes. Les résultats sont publiés dans un rapport basé sur les données recueillies grâce au sondage.

Chaque école participante recevra un exemplaire électronique de ce rapport.

Veuillez remplir le sondage en ligne à : http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/research/school-surveys

Veuillez soumettre vos réponses au plus tard le 20 novembre 2017.

Si vous n'êtes pas en mesure de remplir le sondage en ligne, veuillez l'envoyer par la poste ou par télécopie à : **People for Education, 641, rue Bloor Ouest, Toronto (Ontario), M6G 1L1 Téléc. :** 416-536-0100 **Site Web :** www.peopleforeducation.ca

Les réponses propres aux écoles individuelles demeureront confidentielles. Seuls les résultats d'ensemble seront publiés.

Conseil scolaire de district :	
École :	
Numéro d'identification de l'école :	
Nombre d'élèves :	
Adresse :	
Ville :	Code postal :
Tél.:()	
Adresse électronique de l'école :	
Personne-ressource :	

Lorsque vous répondez aux questions concernant le personnel, veuillez indiquer le nombre **total** de postes en termes d'**équivalents à temps plein (ETP).** Par exemple, un poste à temps plein ou deux postes à mi-temps = 1 ETP; quatre jours par semaine = 0,8 ETP; un poste à mi-temps = 0,5 ETP; un jour par semaine = 0,2 ETP, etc.

1. VUE D'ENSEMBLE DE L'ÉCOLE

Niveaux scolaires : _____à ____ Enseignants ou enseignantes : _____total ETP

2. ADMINISTRATION DE L'ÉCOLE

Directeur ou directrice : total ETP

Combien d'établissements scolaires relèvent du directeur ou de la directrice d'école?

Directeur adjoint ou directrice adjointe : ______ total ETP

🗖 aucun

Votre rôle à la direction d'école comporte plusieurs facettes importantes. Lorsque vous pensez à l'ensemble de votre travail, veuillez
classer les tâches suivantes de 1 à 7 selon le temps qu'elles requièrent (1 étant la tâche qui requiert le plus de temps et 7 celle qui
en requiert le moins).

Veuillez classer les activités suivantes :	Sans objet
Appuyer le perfectionnement professionnel et l'amélioration du programme d'enseignement	
Élaborer le Plan d'amélioration de l'école	
Donner suite aux initiatives de la province et du conseil/système scolaire (communications, documentation et rencontres liées aux politiques et programmes, etc.)	
Gérer le personnel (fonctions liées aux ressources humaines et mise en œuvre des ententes collectives)	
Gérer les questions touchant des élèves en particulier	
Gérer les installations	
Maintenir les relations avec la communauté et les parents	

Des réussites ou des défis relativement à l'administration de votre école?_

3. ÉDUCATION ARTISTIQUE

Indiquez quelles possibilités éducatives seront offertes à vos élèves cette année. (Cochez tout ce qui s'applique)

apprendre à jouer d'un instrument pendant les heures de classe

se produire sur scène ou exposer une oeuvre (p. ex. pièces de théâtre, expositions d'art, spectacles de danse)

participer à une chorale, une fanfare ou un orchestre

Travailler avec un ou une artiste ou autre professionnel ou professionnelle de l'extérieur de l'école

□ 500 \$ à 999 \$ □ 1000 \$ à 1999 \$

assister à un spectacle

🗖 aucune

Le budget de l'école pour la danse, le théâtre, la musique et les arts visuels est de :

☐ moins de 500 \$
 ☐ 2 000 \$ à 4 999 \$

5 000 \$ ou plus (veuillez préciser) :

	+	+		+ -			· ·	,			
Veuillez ind	iquer si vo	otre école	dispose	d'un local	désigné et	t équipé pou	r l'enseignemen	t des disciplines	artistiques	suivantes : (p	р.
ex. tous les	cours de	musique y	/ sont dor	nnés ou il	s'agit d'un	lieu spécialis	é pour l'art dram	atique)			

Musi	que :	🗖 oui	🗖 non			
Dans	e:	🗖 oui	🗖 non			
Théâ	tre :	🗖 oui	🗖 non			
Arts	visuels :	🗖 oui	🗖 non			
Votre école	offre-t-elle des	s cours d	'enseignement art	istique de 11 ^e et 12	^e année dans les domaines	s suivants? (Cochez tout ce qui
s'applique)	🗖 Dans	se	Théâtre	Découverte et	création artistiques	Arts médiatiques
	🗖 Musi	que	Arts visuels	🗖 aucun	Nous n'avons pas de cl	asses de 11º ou 12º année
n v						

Des succès ou des défis relativement à l'éducation artistique à votre école?

\$

4. ÉDUCATION DE L'ENFANCE EN DIFFICULTÉ	
Enseignants ou enseignantes de l'enfance en difficulté : total ETP 🛛 🗖 aucun	
Aides-enseignants ou aides-enseignantes de l'enfance en difficulté :	nseignantes
Si certains de vos élèves attendent une évaluation, ont-ils un PEI? 🛛 oui 🗍 non	
Reçoivent-ils un service d'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté? 🛛 oui 🔹 🗍 non	
Y a-t-il une limite quant au nombre d'élèves qui peuvent être évalués par année? 🛛 oui 🔹 🗖 non	
Avez-vous dû recommander qu'un élève ayant des besoins particuliers ne fréquente pas l'école toute la journé Si oui, pourquoi? sécurité santé de l'élève soutien nécessaire non disponible (veuillez préciser) Des réussites ou des défis relativement à l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté?	
5. ÉDUCATION DES AUTOCHTONES	
Votre école offre-t-elle des activités d'éducation des Autochtones? Si oui , veuillez indiquer lesquelles. (Cochez tout ce qui s'applique) Perfectionnement professionnel du personnel sur les questions culturelles autochtones Programm Programme d'enseignement des langues autochtones Conférenciers ou conférencières autochto Consultation auprès des membres de la communauté autochtone sur les priorités éducatives Cér Programme d'études autochtones Autore :	nes invités
•	
Est-ce que des membres du personnel de l'école s'auto-identifient comme Autochtones?	
6. ORIENTATION Conseillers ou conseillères en orientation :total ETP □ aucun Si oui, ces personnes ont-elles une formation avancée (p. ex. QA, diplôme ou PP)? □ oui □ non Si vous avez des conseillers ou conseillères en orientation, veuillez penser à l'ensemble de leur rôle et classer le de 1 à 6 selon le temps qu'elles requièrent (1 étant la tâche qui requiert le plus de temps et 6 celle qui en requie	
Veuillez classer les activités suivantes	Sans objet
Conseiller individuellement les élèves ayant des besoins continus en matière de santé mentale.	
Appuyer les transitions (p. ex. plans d'itinéraire d'études, choix des cours avec les élèves, demandes d'admission aux institutions postsecondaires)	
Collaborer avec des professionnels/professionnelles ou paraprofessionnels/paraprofessionnelles (p. ex. travailleurs sociaux ou travailleuses sociales, psychologues, travailleurs/travailleuses auprès des jeunes)	
Faire des interventions liées au comportement (p. ex. perturbations en classe, intimidation)	
Soutenir les occasions d'apprentissage par expérience (p. ex. éducation coopérative, stages, double reconnaissance de crédit)	
Coordonner les accommodements pour l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté	
Des réussites ou des défis relativement à l'orientation à votre école?	
ACTIVITÉS DE FINANCEMENT ET FRAIS Environ combien d'argent les parents, les élèves et le personnel ont-ils recueilli pendant l'année scolaire 2016-20 Votre école organise-t-elle des activités de financement pour l'un ou l'autre des items suivants? (Cochez tout ce sports arts matériel scolaire/de laboratoire bibliothèque scol technologie d'initiatives de bionfaisance	e qui s'applique.)

🖵 technologie 🛛 🖵 initiatives de bienfaisance	🖵 autre :	
À combien s'élèvent les frais liés aux activités étudiantes cette année (2	2017-2018)?\$	
Aucuns frais liés aux activités étudiantes		
Votre école perçoit-elle des frais liés aux activités sportives ? 🛛 oui	🗖 non	
Si oui , veuillez indiquer la fourchette des frais (p. ex. : de 5 \$ à 2	25 \$) : \$ à \$	
Des réussites ou des défis relativement aux activités de financement et a	aux frais?	

8. RELATIONS ÉCOLE-COMMUNAUTÉ

Un membre du personnel (autre que la direction ou la direction adjointe) est-il responsable d'assurer **la liaison avec la communauté**?

Si oui, combien de temps en ETP est alloué uniquement à ce poste? ______ total ETP

🗖 aucun

À quelle fréquence votre école est-elle en contact ou travaille-t-elle avec les groupes suivants? (p. ex. partage de ressources, planification conjointe, partage de locaux, appui aux élèves)						Selon votre expérience, dans quelle mesure ces groupes ou services sont-ils accessibles?			
	Souvent	Parfois	Jamais	Indisponible	Très accessible	Assez accessible	Inaccessible	Ne sais pas	
Bibliothèque publique									
Emploi des jeunes									
Fournisseurs de soins de santé mentale									
Organismes autochtones									
Programmes d'aide à l'établissement									
Programmes de loisirs municipaux									
Santé publique									
Services de garde									
Services sociaux									
Autre :									

Des succès ou des défis en matière de relations école-communauté à votre école?

9. COMMENTAIRES SUPPLÉMENTAIRES

Souhaitez-vous nous faire part de commentaires supplémentaires au sujet de votre école? Quels sont les principales réussites et/ou les principaux défis de votre école? Au besoin, veuillez joindre une feuille supplémentaire à ce formulaire.

Ce sondage a été préparé par People for Education, le Metro Parent Network et des groupes de parents de l'ensemble de l'Ontario. People for Education, 641, rue Bloor Ouest, Toronto (Ontario) M6G 1L1 **Tél.**: 416 534 0100 **Téléc.**: 416 536 0100 **Courriel**: mailto:info@peopleforeducation.ca **Site Web**: www.peopleforeducation.ca

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