

QUESTIONS FOR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES DURING ONTARIO'S PROVINCIAL ELECTION

1. The pandemic has exposed deep cracks and significant inequities in the education system. Even before the pandemic, education policy goals were not aligned with the rapidly changing world.
 - **What is your party's vision for long-term renewal in education?**
2. For the last two years, the independent COVID-19 Science Table has provided evidence and advice for Ontario.
 - **Will your government convene an Education Table to provide advice and evidence to support effective decision-making in the education system?**
3. Academics, educators, principals, and students agree that the hybrid model – where teachers teach students in-person and online at the same time – is unworkable.
 - **Will your party ensure boards have the support necessary to eliminate hybrid learning?**
4. Currently, it is mandatory for school boards to provide families with the choice to have their children do all their learning online. Ontario is one of the only jurisdictions in Canada to mandate this choice.
 - **Will your party end the policy mandating boards to provide online schooling to elementary and secondary students? If so, when?**
5. In recent surveys, Ontario principals reported they had insufficient access to staff.
 - **What are your party's plans to recruit more staff for Ontario's schools?**
6. Ontario has pledged to provide 71,000 new registered child care spaces by 2026 (far fewer than the 200,000 spaces experts say are needed).
 - **What will your party do to increase the number of qualified Early Childhood Educators so that new child care spaces can be appropriately staffed?**
7. Recent research shows that most high schools are not able to provide smaller class sizes to support de-streaming in grade 9. In September 2022, all grade 9 classes will be de-streamed.
 - **Will your party provide targeted funding for de-streaming so that students in newly de-streamed grade 9 can learn in smaller classes?**
8. Less than half of Ontario's principals report their school has the resources necessary to support the mental health and well-being of either students or staff. In a recent CAMH survey, 39% of students reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had negatively affected their mental health.
 - **What is your party's long-term plan to make schools hubs of support for student and staff mental health?**
9. Systemic racism and oppression in the education system has marginalized, disenfranchised, and disadvantaged many of Ontario's students.
 - **What are your party's specific goals to eliminate racism in the education system, and in what concrete ways will your party report on progress toward more equitable access and outcomes in education?**
10. Education is a fundamental human right, but currently we do not define the quality of education that *all* students should have a right to access. If all students could realize their right to a high-quality education, they would have more equitable access to all their other civil, political, cultural, and economic rights.
 - **What would your party do to clearly define quality education and how will it report on the province's progress toward a right to high-quality education for every student?**