



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

## **OCSTA Responds to Ontario's School Reopening Plans**

“OCSTA welcomes the Ministry of Education’s announcement on the school reopening planning framework.

The planning framework provides boards with the direction required to make more detailed plans for school reopening this fall.

Association representatives, board chairs and senior representatives from our school boards have been involved with the ministry of education on a range of issues related to the reopening of schools in September. Our boards are also consulting with local public authorities, parents, students and other key local stakeholders on their concerns with school reopening.

The overall objective for our boards in these planning contexts is to provide a safe and healthy, Christ-centered learning and working environment for students and board staff in light of the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

OCSTA and our board staff have also had ongoing involvement with the ministry of education on various issues related to distance learning that followed the closure of schools in March due to COVID-19. For example, we continue to have discussions on the learning needs of students with special needs, student assessment, and student and staff mental health issues.

We firmly believe that boards require the flexibility in any approach to school reopening planning frameworks to best accommodate local circumstances.

As is our practice, we will be consulting our boards and making a formal submission on the details of that Guidance from the ministry.

OCSTA appreciates the tremendous effort of Catholic School Board System And School leaders, teachers and support staff as well as the ongoing understanding and support of parents throughout this challenging time.”

**Beverley Eckensweiler**  
**OCSTA President**