

## Ontario Election Campaign Commitments 2022 (May 5, 2022)

The following table outlines Ontario’s political parties policy commitments compared with OCSTA priorities as outlined in the Pre-Budget submission and related documents. The information includes political party platforms, public statements, recent government announcements/budget since May 1 2022.

<b>OCSTA Priority</b>	<b>PC</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>NDP</b>	<b>Greens</b>
<b>Mental Health Funding</b>	Ontario’s \$600-million Learning Recovery Action Plan for 2022-23, mental well-being will invest more than \$90 million, including \$10 million in new funding, of which \$5 million is to be used for evidence-based mental health programs and resources. This funding will help retain the existing mental health workers in schools, including the 180 mental health professionals who are providing critical supports directly to students in secondary schools across the province.	<p>Ensure no student waits more for critical mental health help.</p> <p>Hire 1,000 more mental health workers for students and staff.</p> <p>Make mental health first aid training more available to staff.</p> <p>Give a free breakfast to every student who needs one.</p> <p>Get elementary school students moving three times more a day.</p> <p>\$75 million for 1,000 more mental health professionals to directly support students and staff (about one for every five schools coordinated with community care and youth wellness hubs; on top of \$35 million already budgeted by the province).</p>	<p>Universal mental health benefit program-\$1.15 billion annually.</p> <p>Create Mental Health Ontario, a new coordinating organization that will take the lead on identifying and publicly reporting on mental health needs, developing a comprehensive wait list for services.</p> <p>Reduce the waitlist for children’s mental health to 30 days and implement the Make Kids Count Action Plan as laid out by the Children’s Health Coalition. The plan calls for an investment of \$130 million over the next three years to build intensive treatment and specialized consultation services.</p>	<p>Reduce children and youth mental health wait times to 30 days or less by hiring more front-line workers.</p> <p>Ensure students can seamlessly connect to mental health professionals located at or near schools.</p> <p>Invest in youth wellness hubs.</p>
<b>Mandatory E-Learning and Class Size</b>	Continue 2 mandatory e-learning course graduation requirement; funding Catholic course development.	End mandatory online learning, hire more teachers to teach smaller classes. All classes hard capped at 20 students.	End mandatory requirement for two online courses and end hybrid learning models. Cap classes for Grades 4 through 8 at 24. Reduce high school class sizes.	[Nothing on e-learning] Ensure the average class size of grades 4 to 8 does not exceed 22 students, the current average class size for

				secondary students. Ensure Ontario curricula is developed and led by certified Ontario teachers, not private companies.
<b>Executive Compensation</b>	No commitments	Repeal Bill 124 restricting public sector compensation.	Repeal Bill 124: restore respect and fair compensation for the people who deliver education.	Repeal Bill 124.
<b>Capital Funding and Planning Framework and EDCs.</b>	Budget news: \$14 billion over 10 years of new funding.	\$10 billion over 4 years to build and repair schools cross Ontario. \$525 million at minimum the province needs to match the federal investment in urgent upgrades this summer to improve ventilation and filtration systems, air conditioning and window upgrades that will significantly and permanently improve air safety for COVID-19 and other illnesses. Review EDCs.	Clear the school repair backlog: We will immediately address the backlog, with a plan to clear it within 10 years. Ensure that all schools have up-to-date ventilation systems to prevent the spread of infection during potential future waves of COVID-19.  Fairness in Education Development Charges: We will fix the rules around education development charges so they can fund the new schools families need.	No specific commitments to date.
<b>Special Education Funding/Review of Grant Structure</b>	GSN news: \$90 million increase in funding.	Hire 5,000 more special education workers. Reduce wait times for special education.	Increase special education funding: Base special education funding on actual needs with timely needs assessments. This will mean overall funding increases for students with special educational	Conduct an independent, external review of the statistical model used for funding special education, to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting actual student needs.

			needs, helping schools, teachers and education assistants give children the support they need.	Increase support for special education funding to school boards to address the challenge of meeting the needs of children with learning exceptionalities and mental health issues.
<b>Student Transportation Funding, GSN Structure</b>	On-going review of the transportation funding model at department level.	<p>\$40 million for school transportation needs, including smaller numbers of students in buses and staffing retention (on top of the \$32 million in temporary funding from the province).</p> <p>Review structure of funding GSN, review EDCs, review funding to better support northern boards, students with special needs.</p>	Review and repair the funding formula: work with parents, front-line educators, students, and educational experts to overhaul the education funding formula, starting with a comprehensive public review to be completed within one year.	Establish a comprehensive evidence-based review of the education funding formula every five years to determine its effectiveness in supporting high quality public education.
<b>School Board Governance, Reserve Funds</b>	Ongoing review of issues to address racism, codes of conduct.	Restore board reserves used for pandemic spending. Create Education Partnership Table and make it permanent.	Work with education workers to improve school board compliance with health and safety legislation. Support more Indigenous representation on boards: encourage the recruitment of Indigenous school board trustees to ensure Indigenous people are represented in school decisions. Establish a Partnership Table with representation from workers' unions, school board	Require school boards to collect race-based data, which will enhance the incorporation of race equity elements during the development of all education programs.

			trustees, principals and other education stakeholders, working together to strengthen public education for the long term.	
<b>Anti-Black and Indigenous Racism</b>	Ongoing review of issues and funding to address racism.	End streaming in Grades 9 and 10 in public schools as the practice perpetuates anti-Black racism and further segregates students from marginalized backgrounds.	Amend the <i>Education Act</i> to address racism and discrimination: to set out clear, consistent definitions of racism and anti-racism and standard policies around racial equity training for education workers, procedures for reporting incidents of racism, and resources for students who experience racism.	Support and enable students, families, teachers and communities to play a role in building a culture of equity at school.