

**To:** ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members  
**From:** Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)  
**Date:** May 30, 2025  
**Regarding:** **Supporting Children and Students Act**

Email to Local Presidents sent on behalf of Sharon O'Halloran, General Secretary, ETFO Provincial:

**Memorandum to:** Chairs of District School Boards  
Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Paul Calandra  
Minister of Education

Denise A. Cole  
Deputy Minister of Education

**Subject:** ***Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025***

We are writing to inform you that, today, the government tabled the *Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025* (the Act). If passed, this legislation would strengthen government oversight and accountability in public school boards and postsecondary education. The proposed changes would also increase the safety, well-being and academic and personal achievement of children and youth in care.

The Act includes proposed changes from the Ministry of Education (EDU), the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), and the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES).

For EDU, changes are proposed to the *Education Act* around the following two themes:

Increasing government's oversight of school board finances, governance and program performance; and

- Promoting student success and enhancing student safety.

### Accountability and Transparency:

EDU is proposing amendments to:

- Create a single, more nimble and flexible legislative authority to provide oversight up to and including supervision of school boards based on matters of public interest such as governance, finances, or program concerns;
- Provide ministerial authority to establish school board expense policies, including discretionary spending, setting out key principles and mandatory requirements for school boards inclusive of regulatory enforcement, disclosure and audit requirements;
- Allow the ministry to conduct school board audits, define the role of school board internal auditors and prescribe their duties and define the role of external auditors;
- Remove duplicative provisions for consultation related to regulations regarding provincial interest in education; and
- Establish ministerial oversight for school naming when school boards open a new school and/or change an existing school name.

### Safety and Rights:

Amendments are proposed to:

- Require school boards to work with local police services to allow access to schools, permit them to participate in school programs and implement School Resource Officer (SRO) programs where they are offered by local police services; and
- Add regulation-making authority to allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to set out minimum provincial standards on how school boards are to work with police, including authority to set out the circumstances within which school boards must provide local police services with access to schools or to permit them to participate in school programs, and governing SRO programs.

If passed, the proposed changes described above would come into force upon Royal Assent, with additional regulatory amendments and policy changes to follow after engagement with sector partners.

In the meantime, we welcome your feedback on the proposed legislative amendments through Ontario's Regulatory Registry, which can be accessed through the following link: [Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025](#).

“The collective agreement is the rule book, not a guidebook.”

### Other Policy Changes

Separate from the proposed legislation, EDU is planning for the following changes, if approved, to further improve student safety and support their future success:

- Standardize the requirement for police record checks by requiring school boards to collect, based on whether the person is in a position of trust or authority, either a Vulnerable Sector Check or Criminal Records and Judicial Matters Check every five years from employees, service providers, volunteers and students on an education placement;
- Allow school boards additional ways to organize the school day for elementary students to maximize student learning (such as the 'balanced day' model) through changes to Regulation 298;
- Incentivize student volunteerism by introducing a new Minister's Certificate of Recognition for Community Involvement for students who earn 50 or more community involvement hours; and
- Allow students to celebrate Ontario milestones by recognizing Ontario Day (June 1) annually in schools.

As always, thank you for your continued collaboration and ongoing commitment to the students of Ontario.

c: Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)  
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)  
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)  
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)  
Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF)  
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)  
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)  
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)  
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)  
Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)  
Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)  
Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)  
Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)  
Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)  
Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at [etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com](mailto:etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com).