



Candidates in all of OSSTF District 24 Ridings were sent a list of questions. Below you will find their responses.

Riding: Cambridge

Question	 Kathryn McGarry			
<p>Educational Support Staff have a wide and varied role within the Education system as it relates to enhancing and supporting learning for all students. How would your party ensure student success is not compromised by having inadequate staffing levels in these roles?</p>	<p>The Ontario Liberal plan for education is focused on working collaboratively with our partners in education to deliver better results for students. Working together, we have implemented full-day kindergarten and our schools are now recognized among the best in the world. We will build on that record to meet tomorrow's challenges in education.</p> <p>Since 2003, funding for Ontario schools is up \$8.1B or 56 percent. We have invested in hiring 13,500 new teachers and over 9,000 support staff;</p>	<p>No Response Received to date</p>	<p>No Response Received to date</p>	<p>No Response Received to date</p>

	<p>reducing class sizes; creating innovative, new programs like Specialist High Skill Majors and Dual Credits; and supporting programs to make our schools safer and more accepting spaces. Our 2014 budget committed to provide more than \$11 billion in capital grants to school boards to continue building better schools across the province.</p> <p>Our significant investments have supported the hard work of students, educators, parents, and the results speak for themselves.</p> <p>In 2003, only 68 percent of our students were graduating. Today, the graduation rate is up 15 percentage points to 83 percent – the highest ever.</p> <p>In 2003, only 54 percent of our students in grades 3 and 6 were meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing, and mathematics. Today, that number has</p>			
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	<p>increased 16 percentage points to 71 percent and we will continue to work with our partners to keep moving in the right direction.</p> <p>We just released a plan for the system based on extensive consultation with our stakeholders, including OSSTF, entitled "Achieving Excellence". To support the new vision for education, the Province will be investing \$150 million over three years in technology and learning tools such as new digital tablets, netbooks, cameras, software and professional development for teachers. This vision builds on the education system's three current priorities: increasing student achievement, closing gaps in student achievement and increasing public confidence in publicly funded education. Our plan raises expectations both for the system and for the potential of our children and students.</p>			
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	<p>Our renewed goals for education are:</p> <p>Achieving Excellence: Children and students of all ages will achieve high levels of academic performance, acquire valuable skills and demonstrate good citizenship. Educators will be supported in learning continuously and will be recognized as among the best in the world.</p> <p>Ensuring Equity: All children and students will be inspired to reach their full potential, with access to rich learning experiences that begin at birth and continue into adulthood.</p> <p>Promoting Well-Being: All children and students will develop enhanced mental and physical health, a positive sense of self and belonging, and the skills to make positive choices.</p> <p>Enhancing Public Confidence: Ontarians will</p>			
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	<p>continue to have confidence in a publicly funded education system that helps develop new generations of confident, capable and caring citizens.</p> <p>These four goals are interconnected – success in one contributes to success in the others. Our progress over the last 10 years tells us that when educators, students, parents, and our many other partners work together on clear goals, we can build success.</p> <p>We have a plan and a positive record.</p> <p>In stark contrast, Tim Hudak has clearly said that the PCs would fire 10,000 support staff, eliminate thousands of teaching jobs, and voted against legislation to introduce better collective bargaining. The NDP have not yet articulated a coherent plan for education. Only Ontario Liberals have a</p>			
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	<p>comprehensive plan for education from the earliest years to adulthood.</p>			
<p>2. How will your party strengthen the public education system in Ontario? In particular, how will your government ensure students with special needs receive the necessary professional support provided through regulated non-teaching special education staff?</p>	<p>Our success in education is a result of our decade-long partnership with the education sector – a partnership that we value and have supported with increased funding, more teaching and non-teaching staff, and important new investments.</p> <p>Education funding for 2014–15 through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) is increasing to over \$22.5B, an increase of 56.5 per cent since 2002–03. This is an increase of \$4,223 per student under our government.</p> <p>We are investing about \$1.5 billion to ensure all 4 and 5 year olds have access to full-day kindergarten (FDK) this September, giving our students a stronger start at school. We introduced changes this year related to how we fund special education. The changes were based on extensive</p>			

	<p>consultation with sector representatives and the new funding approach is being phased in over four years to better reflect the current variation among students and boards. Students with special education needs are receiving about \$2.5 billion in support this year – an increase of \$870 million or 54 percent since 2003.</p> <p>We introduced changes this year related to how we fund special education. The changes were based on extensive consultation with sector representatives and the new funding approach is being phased in over four years to better reflect the current variation among students and boards. Students with special education needs are receiving about \$205 billion in support this year – an increase of \$870 million or 54 percent since 2003.</p> <p>We have also introduced annual funding for Mental Health Leaders to support Ontario's Mental Health</p>			
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	<p>Strategy through the GSN beginning this year. This funding will be enveloped to ensure that each school board has at least one Mental Health and Addictions Leader.</p> <p>A Liberal government would continue to consult with our partners in education to make adjustments to the funding formula based on the needs of students.</p>			
<p>3. How will your party revise the education funding formula to ensure that school boards receive full and adequate funding so that Educational support staff and special education staff can meet the learning needs for all students?</p>	<p>Teachers' ongoing assessment and feedback about student work is central to student learning and achievement in classrooms across the province. No single test can offer a complete or definitive picture of what a student has learned. No one better understands the true measure of a student's abilities and knowledge—or is in a better position to assess them—than his or her classroom teacher. When taken together, the results of EQAO and classroom tests provide a more complete picture of a</p>			

	<p>student's knowledge.</p> <p>The best thing for parents to do with their child's EQAO results is to discuss them with his or her teacher. Together they can review how the EQAO results compare with those from classroom and other evaluations, in addition to discussing the broader issue of a child's overall progress.</p> <p>It is also important to analyze the results of provincial assessments to track progress and identify trends across boards in order to build initiatives that support improved student learning and achievement across the province.</p> <p>The inclusion of all students in the EQAO assessments provides valuable data and information over time that cannot be obtained through random sample testing. EQAO assessments are administered to all</p>			
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	<p>students so that results for the province, boards, and schools can be tracked over time.</p> <p>Working with our partners in education we have made significant gains in education. Overall, 71 percent of students are achieving the provincial standard in Grades 3 and 6 combined -- up 17 points from 54 percent compared to 2002-03. And we are proud of the fact that over 30 percent more English Language Learners, whose first language is not English, are meeting the provincial standard on EQAO assessments than in 2003.</p> <p>In Achieving Excellence, we set out a vision that stresses the importance of having a broader understanding of success for Ontario students. We will engage education partners -- including OSSTF -- in discussions regarding how best to assess and measure a broader understanding of</p>			
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	student success.			
<p>4. What will happen to full day kindergarten if your party forms the next government?</p>	<p>We believe schools should be a place where students, staff and the community feel welcome, safe, and respected. It goes without saying that students do better when they feel safe. That is why we introduced the Safe Schools Act and the Accepting Schools Act – both have ensured students and educators have the tools they need to build safer, more accepting school environments.</p> <p>We have also invested more than \$300 million to support safe and accepting school environments. This includes hiring more than 2,100 additional psychologists, social and child/youth workers, attendance counselors, and lunch/yard/school bus monitors. Ontario Liberals have invested \$300 million since 2003 in order to build safer learning environments.</p> <p>With respect to exceptional students, we have reformed teacher</p>			

	<p>education programs to ensure every teacher candidate has special education training and increased our funding for special education needs by more \$870 million since 2003, a 54 percent increase in funding. In the Accepting Schools Act, we required every school board to develop a plan to ensure the safety of students and education workers. We also required school boards to survey staff in the development of those plans. When it comes to exceptional students, plans for student and education workers' safety, it is important that they also include input from the community and the school board education advisory committees.</p>			
<p>5. With declining enrollment, schools have been faced with tough decisions on what programs can be offered. What steps would your party take to address this pressure? What programs do you see as the highest priority?</p>				

6. What will your party do to restore full funding to adult education programs across Ontario?				