



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

Riding: Kitchener - Centre

Question		 Margaret Johnston		
<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>No Response Receive to date</p>	<p>Tim Hudak has a plan to phase out 10,000 non-teaching positions. That's the wrong way to go. From custodians to principals to our administrative staff, every person in our schools interacts with our children and are valuable assets to student learning and success. Non-teaching staff contribute to a healthy and happy school environment. New Democrats will continue to stand up for support staff and ensure that there are adequate staffing levels. Government's role is to</p>	<p>No Response Receive to date</p>	<p>No Response Receive to date</p>

		<p>support all educational staff to help them deliver the best education for our students.</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>All Ontario students deserve the opportunity to succeed and we're lucky that our dedicated teachers and staff make our schools some of the best in the world. New Democrats understand the important role of our public education system. We will review the funding formula and ensure that regional needs are addressed. Currently, in Waterloo Region District School Board about 1 in 4 students are accessing special education services when the Province wide numbers are at 14%. The cookie cutter formula is not working for Waterloo students.</p> <p>We also understand that student assessments need to focus on students, not on ranking schools. New Democrats support a better approach to testing that reduces anxiety, and empowers teachers. We believe that class size is</p>		

		<p>an important factor in providing quality education, and we think government should support school boards to make the best use of public space.</p> <p>Regulated non-teaching special education staff plays an important role in supporting our students with special needs.</p> <p>Unfortunately, past government decisions to cut funding and freeze budgets has meant doing more with less for teachers and support staff. In secondary schools, the ratio of special education students to special education teachers has risen dramatically from 48:1 to 66:1; between 2001 and 2013.</p> <p>We need a change. New Democrats recognize that when our students succeed, we all succeed. An Ontario NDP government will deliver results by reviewing education funding to ensure that students with special needs receive</p>		
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		necessary, professional support.		
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>Ensuring adequate funding is important to encourage our students to reach their full potential. The current cookie cutter, bureaucrat-led funding formula was developed in 1997 by the Mike Harris government and needs to be examined. The Dalton McGuinty/Kathleen Wynne government has neglected students by not addressing the obvious problems. Andrea Horwath and an Ontario NDP government will review the funding formula to ensure that we provide the support our students, teachers and support staff need. We will also support local school boards so that there are options for underutilized schools.</p> <p>Further, we will invest in schools as community hubs, providing valuable public services and helping to ensure schools stay open, where possible.</p>		
4. What will happen to full day kindergarten if your party forms the next		Education is the number one social determinant of health. Providing full day		

government?		<p>kindergarten is an important investment for Ontario students. Improvements in language, reading, and communications skills are all attributable to full day kindergarten.</p> <p>Tim Hudak wants to cut full day kindergarten, that's the wrong way to go. New Democrats strongly supported introducing full-day kindergarten and we believe it makes sense to improve on our success. We need to look at class sizes, and to what successful boards are doing. Andrea Horwath and an Ontario NDP government will also address issues with roll out and class sizes.</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>		<p>Our students need to be prepared to succeed in a global economy. I don't want to see any cuts. In fact, I'd like to see more variety of programs and courses. When students have to decide at such an early age about post-secondary direction and if</p>		

		<p>our schools aren't giving them choices in programming at the secondary level they are missing out on an opportunity to choose what will be most relevant to their future.</p> <p>Funding cuts, freezes, and a cookie-cutter, bureaucrat-led funding formula from 1997 have left teachers to do more with less. The Ontario NDP believes there's a better way. We understand that it is important to offer Ontario students a range of programs, supports and resources.</p> <p>We will review the funding formula bringing the front-line education stakeholders to the table to come up with a sensible and practical model that ensures that the resources are available for our students and teachers. We believe that it makes sense to work together to build a school system that prepares students to be engaged, active, and innovative citizens.</p>		
6. What will your party do		This is an issue that is of		

<p>to restore full funding to adult education programs across Ontario?</p>		<p>particular importance to me, as I have a degree in Adult Education. I am also a Business Developer at the University of Waterloo in Co-Operative Education. In Kitchener Centre, career training is clearly an important issue. With loss of jobs in the local manufacturing sector, it makes sense to invest in adult education and skills training as the labour market changes. Adult education has an important role to play in equipping Ontarians with the skills they need to transition between jobs. The Ontario NDP will look at the funding level for adult education programs across Ontario to ensure that workers can have the necessary skills to find good, full-time jobs.</p>		