



ONE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM IN EACH OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

As anyone would expect, the Government of Ontario funds English and French public school systems across the province. But Ontario also funds English and French Catholic schools, as well as one single-school Protestant board in Penetanguishene. That's a total of four province-wide school systems and one autonomous religion-based school board, all funded through Ontario's Ministry of Education.

In the multi-cultural, multi-faith society that is Ontario in the 21st century, this ongoing public funding for multiple Catholic school boards and a single Protestant school board simply makes no sense.

What does make sense is to merge all of these systems into one public secular education system in each official language. It's a move that would eliminate significant duplication of services, and it would mirror what a number of other provinces have done in recent decades.

Current polls indicate more than 70 per cent of Ontarians favour a merger of the province's school systems. The same polls tell us that parents want the savings generated by such a merger to be reinvested back into the education system, to make it even better and more accessible to all students.

This process would be challenging and complex, and that is why all stakeholders and decision makers need to be part of the conversation. The time to have a serious discussion about the future of publicly-funded education in Ontario is now.

OSSTF/FEESO IS CALLING FOR:

- An all-party task force to look into the merits and challenges of moving to one public secular school system in each official language, to be convened immediately.
- Savings realized from a merger of systems to be reinvested back into the education system to enhance the quality of education and the availability of services that students need.
- All education stakeholders to be involved in a discussion about the future of publicly-funded education in Ontario, accessible to all students.