

SCHOOL LIBRARIES = STUDENT SUCCESS



Access to a properly staffed school library is a proven ingredient for student success and achieving Ontario's curriculum objectives for literacy, research and other critical skills.



Schools with libraries and trained library staff see better outcomes on the Grade 3 and 6 EQAO assessments.



Over the past two decades, hundreds of thousands of students across Ontario have lost access to school libraries – and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout have accelerated this alarming trend.

1/3 of school boards reported **spending less** than the provincial per-student funding formula for school libraries and library staff in 2021-22.

Since then, several of Ontario's largest school boards have made dramatic reductions to school libraries and library staff affecting hundreds of thousands of students.



Protecting Provincial Funding for Ontario's School Libraries

Every year, Ontario provides **over \$230 million** to school boards for school libraries and library staff, in accordance with a per-student funding formula.

Less than 10% of that funding is explicitly required to be used – or enveloped – for school libraries.

TAKING ACTION



Better Accountability

- Beginning last year, the Ministry of Education now requires school boards to report annually on how provincial funding is used to meet the provincial expectations for school library investments.
- For those boards underinvesting in school libraries and library staff, multi-year plans will be required to bring that level of investment up to provincial expectations.
- OSLA is engaging with the Ministry of Education to improve these reporting requirements and to support the implementation of the multi-year plan requirements.



Protecting Funding

- OSLA continues to advocate that the Ministry of Education mandate that school boards must spend this allocated funding on school libraries, both on staffing and resources.
- This approach respects the independence of school boards by ensuring local flexibility on how best to use this funding in support of school library programs and staffing, as long as all such funds are invested consistently with the province's funding formula.
- This important step will protect and restore access for all Ontario students to this critical learning resource – no matter where they live in the province.