



:. ontario school library association

To be sent via Active Campaign

March 23, 2022

Dear **Full name**:

RE: Staffing Qualified School Library Professionals in Every School

Following two years of pandemic-related disruption in Ontario's schools, teachers and school boards are embarking on the complex effort of addressing critical shortfalls and skills gaps due to the impact of extended periods of distance learning. School libraries and school library professionals are a critical part of this vital effort. However, in many school boards, school library programming remains deeply impacted by pandemic measures, without a clear path to restoring access to school libraries and library professionals in recognition of their vital curriculum supporting role. As you make staffing decisions for the next school year, we urge you to include qualified school library professionals and a comprehensive school library program to support students at all of your schools.

The impact of the pandemic and extended virtual learning on student literacy is unprecedented, and will require a comprehensive, multi-year effort to ensure that Ontario's students are able to get back on track. School libraries are an essential component to this effort. As advocates for school libraries and cultivating a love of reading, we are invested in ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed in all areas. With growing concerns about mis- and disinformation, trained school library professionals are ideally skilled to support students gain the critical media and information literacy skills that are crucial to personal development and lifelong success

On May 4, 2021, the Ministry of Education released its 2021-22 Grants for Student Needs (GSN), outlining enhanced reporting requirements for library staff funding, and we anticipate that more details will be released later this year. We believe that this measure has the potential to have a significant positive impact on student success, literacy and post-secondary preparedness in every community across Ontario.

The Ontario School Library Association (OSLA) is a recognized subject matter association, consisting of more than 1,000 front-line teacher-librarians and school library staff essential for delivering Ontario's primary and secondary curriculum. We are committed to working with boards to ensure that students benefit from a tailored, board- specific approach to ensuring access to school libraries and library staff. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and members of your team in the coming weeks to discuss this important issue, share best practices, and identify a path forward to ensure that students will have access to this critical learning resource.

Yours sincerely,

Beth Lyons

OSLA President and on behalf of [2022 OSLA Council Members](#)