



∴ ontario school library association

April 29, 2026

Sent to Directors of Education, Board Chair, and/or Supervisor at the 26 school boards represented on [The Association of Library Consultants & Coordinators of Ontario \(TALCO\)](#)

RE: Supporting Staffing in School Libraries

The Ontario School Library Association (OSLA) and the Ontario Library Association (OLA) are writing as school boards across Ontario make important decisions related to staffing, resource allocation, and student supports. We recognize the complexity of these decisions and wish to underscore the essential role that well-resourced school library programs play in advancing student learning, literacy and well-being.

As your board works to meet provincial priorities around literacy and student achievement, it is important to recognize that professionally supported school libraries are not supplementary; they are integral to public education. Decisions affecting school library staffing have direct and last impacts on students in both elementary and secondary schools.

School library programs help strengthen literacy and learning across disciplines by providing equitable access to high-quality resources, fostering engagement with reading, and supporting inquiry-based learning in alignment with curriculum priorities. Over time, Ontario has seen a significant decline both in access to school library supports and in students' reported enjoyment of reading – trends that warrant careful consideration as staffing decisions are made.

Strong literacy skills are essential to student achievement and well-being throughout a learner's educational journey. School library staff support this work by collaborating with educators, strengthening students' literacy skills, fostering a love of reading, and guiding students in accessing and engaging with a wide range of relevant texts and media.

When staffing in school libraries is reduced, students experience fewer opportunities for guided reading engagement, inquiry-based learning, and access to curated resources that reflect diverse learning needs and identities. As Ontario seeks to strengthen student literacy, maintaining strong school library programs remains an effective and practical way for boards to support student outcomes from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

As staffing decisions are finalized, we respectfully encourage boards to consider the long-term educational impact of school library staffing reductions and to prioritize continued access to professionally supported school library programs that contribute to literacy, student achievement, and educational equity.

Sincerely,



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Ontario School Library Association

The Ontario School Library Association (OSLA) is a division of the Ontario Library Association (OLA), the oldest and largest library association in Canada. The OSLA provides a common voice for school library professionals needs and interests through advocacy, leadership and continuing education. Over 1,300 elementary and secondary school teacher-librarians, library technicians and school board consultants are represented in OSLA.