

June 11, 2026

Hon. Paul Calandra  
Minister of Education  
5th Floor, 438 University Ave,  
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

Sent by email: [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Calandra,

**RE: Improving Literacy & Curriculum Outcomes by Strengthening School Libraries**

On behalf of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Ontario School Library Association (OSLA), we are writing to request a meeting with you and your office to discuss the role of school libraries in supporting Ontario's education priorities, particularly foundational literacy and student achievement.

We strongly support the government's focus on improving literacy outcomes and ensuring students develop the skills they need to succeed. School library professionals are important partners in achieving these goals. They support literacy development, information literacy, access to high-quality learning resources, and provide valuable support to classroom educators. School library professionals are also instrumental in helping students develop the necessary skills to use artificial intelligence (AI) critically and responsibly.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of recent school board decisions on school library programs and staffing. These consequential decisions are happening now and put progress towards achieving Ontario's literacy goals at risk. Although the Ministry of Education provides Ontario's school boards with millions of dollars every year intended for school library programs, the introduction of the Core Education Funding model removed the only provincially protected funding allocation and eliminated reporting mechanisms that provided transparency about school library investments. As a result, decisions regarding school library funding and staffing now rest entirely with individual school boards, increasing the risk of reductions to library programs and services.

Research and student achievement data continue to demonstrate the positive impact of staffed school libraries on literacy outcomes. At a time when Ontario is prioritizing foundational literacy

and student achievement, reductions in school library staffing risks limiting student access to critical supports that contribute to these objectives.

We believe there are opportunities to strengthen accountability and transparency around school library funding while maintaining the flexibility school boards require to address local needs. We likewise believe that there is a compelling opportunity to more clearly align the role of the school library and school library professionals in delivering on Ontario's literacy and curriculum objectives. We would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss these issues and explore ways school libraries can continue to support the government's literacy and student achievement goals.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,



Richard Reid  
President 2026  
[Ontario School Library Association \(OSLA\)](#)



Michelle Arbuckle  
Executive Director  
[Ontario Library Association \(OLA\)](#)  
[marbuckle@accessola.com](mailto:marbuckle@accessola.com)

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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.