

April 3, 2019

Stan Cho
Member of Provincial Parliament, Willowdale
111 Sheppard Ave. W.
Toronto, ON
M2M 1M7

Dear MPP Cho,

I write to you today as a concerned parent whose son attends Brebeuf College School in your riding of Willowdale.

I am disappointed and concerned with the recent changes announced by the Minister of Education, the Honourable Lisa Thompson, to our publicly funded education system. Changes that in my opinion are going completely in the wrong direction. Instead of moving forward your government is moving backwards on education.

Our family pays a lot in provincial taxes and we expect Ontario to invest in the most important priorities. For us that is education.

Increasing class sizes and reducing the number of classes at the high school level will crowd classrooms, leading to our children getting less attention and reducing program opportunities.

I also do not support:

- 4 mandatory e-learning classes, with a class size average of 35 students;
- Eliminating free tuition for low- and middle-income families through OSAP;
- Reducing the number of teachers and support staff in classrooms and across the province;
- Downloading its obligation to support children with autism onto publicly funded schools without providing adequate funding;
- Not committing to the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant beyond 2018/2019;
- Increased class sizes in grades 4-8; and
- Elimination of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK).

Together, these changes are deeply damaging to students and families looking to access a high-quality postsecondary education.

I believe that the proposed changes will have a devastating impact on my son's and his classmates' learning and well being. The proposed changes will negatively impact the incredible teaching staff, office administration, support and custodial staff at his school. I fail to understand how cuts to education funding will help our children succeed.

Students in Ontario need more help and support. They need safer, well-resourced classrooms and more teacher attention so that they can be successful and excel not only in math and science, but also in all areas of study and in life.

The proposed regressive changes will have damaging effects on our highly regarded education system and ultimately the well-being and prosperity of our students - our children - and our Province.

Governments wanting to grow a rapidly changing economy should be looking for ways to make it easier for students of all ages to access higher education and re-training.

I am asking you to do what's best for Ontario's students. They are the most important part of the public education system and we need more resources not fewer.

I hope that you and our government will see the importance of reinvesting wisely in education. I am counting on you and your government to consider the priorities of everyday Ontarians like me when making cuts to an education system that is working for our children.

I cannot and will not support a cut that is not in the best interest of our children.

Sincerely,

Brebeuf College School Parent
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