

## What Can I Do?

Tell all levels of government to give our students and communities what they need to succeed.

### Demand:

- The province overhaul the funding formula.
- The province provide proper funding for our schools and the programs they provide.
- That schools be used as community hubs to meet the needs of our neighbourhoods.
- Proper funding for maintenance of our community assets: our schools.

### Take Action

- Call or write your MPP.
- Call or write your City Councillor.
- Let your Trustee know of your concerns.
- Join an existing group or form one that will fight this attack on public education.
- Look for meetings happening in your area.



## Resources

Campaign for Public Education  
[campaignforpubliceducation.ca](http://campaignforpubliceducation.ca)

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
[bit.do/ccpa](http://bit.do/ccpa)

Fix Our Schools  
[fixourschools.ca](http://fixourschools.ca)

Your MPP  
[bit.do/ONmpp](http://bit.do/ONmpp)

Your City Councillor  
[bit.do/TOcouncil](http://bit.do/TOcouncil)

Your TDSB Trustee  
[bit.do/TOtrustees](http://bit.do/TOtrustees)

### Sources

"Elementary/Junior High School Enrolment, Capacity and Utilization Data (2004-2034)," Toronto District School Board.

"Harris Era Hangovers: Toronto School Trustees' Inherited Funding Shortfall," Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Majority of Schools on TDSB Hit List in Poorer Neighbourhoods," Toronto Star.

"Review of the Toronto District School Board," Ontario Ministry of Education.

"School Closures," Elementary Teachers of Toronto.

"Secondary Enrolment, Capacity and Utilization Data (2014-2034)," Toronto District School Board.

**SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND MPPs:**  
Give students & communities what they

**NEED TO SUCCEED**

[campaignforpubliceducation.ca](http://campaignforpubliceducation.ca)



# OUR SCHOOLS, OUR COMMUNITIES

## School Closures Affect All of Us

Up to 130 Toronto public schools are under threat of closure.

Our schools, our children, and our communities deserve a bright future. They deserve fair funding from the province.

Say no to school closures.

Campaign for Public Education

# Our Public Education System is Underfunded

Toronto's public education system is funded by the Ontario government through an outdated formula based on a school's square footage and not the needs of the students inside.

Over the last three years, the province has underfunded the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) by \$190 million.

2012–2014:  
**\$190 million**



Provincial underfunding has led to:

- A \$3 billion backlog in repairs to TDSB schools.
- Cuts to physical education, music, art, and libraries.
- Large class sizes.
- A \$15 million shortfall for full-day kindergarten.
- Inadequate support for Toronto's most vulnerable students; insufficient resources for special education and guidance classes.
- Operational shortfalls, as insufficiently funded provincially mandated programs can only be delivered through cuts to other programs.



Our schools are community hubs. Vibrant, growing communities depend on the schools at their centre.

## The Truth Behind The Province's Numbers

The Ontario government's actions are threatening up to 130 public schools with closure.

The province claims that schools at 65 per cent capacity or less are underutilized, with no accounting for future use or current daycare, adult education, parent centre, and/or community use of space.

- The average capacity of elementary schools in Toronto is 85 per cent. In twenty years, the average capacity will be 92 per cent.
- Currently, 141 schools are overcapacity and overcrowded. In twenty years, 189 will be overcapacity.
- The majority of the targeted schools serve Toronto's most at-risk students.
- Replacement costs for future schools will be at least three times what the TDSB now receives in sales.

## What Closing Schools Means To Our Communities

Our tax dollars pay for public schools. These are our shared community assets.

- Once public land is sold, it's gone forever. If demographics shift, we can't respond to changing needs.
- Children have to travel longer distances to school, creating potential safety risks.
- Community groups (sports leagues, language classes, general interest courses, etc.) that use schools after hours can no longer serve their communities.
- The loss of a local school often means a drop in the home prices in the area.

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