

# People for Education analysis of provincial party platforms for the 2014 Ontario provincial election

	Green Party Platform	Liberal Platform	NDP Platform	Progressive Conservative Platform
Student Health and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Liberals will expand the Student Nutrition Program by \$32 million over three years.</li> <li>They will also develop new programs to support partnerships between school boards and community organizations so that students will get 60 minutes of physical activity through intramural sports, before- and after-school programs, and other activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDP promises \$15 million per year for school nutrition programs. This is in addition to the current funding of approximately \$21 million.</li> <li>Hire 1,000 new Health and Physical education (H&amp;PE) teachers by 2018.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Conservatives promise that all students will get 45 minutes of daily physical activity through a combination of in-school activities and after-school sports.</li> </ul>
Childcare and Full Day Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child care workers outside of school boards will receive a \$2 per hour increase, to bring their wages closer to the wages of early childhood educators who work in Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)</li> <li>The Liberals will complete the implementation of FDK, so that it is available in all schools with kindergarten programs, taught by a teacher/early childhood educator team. Boards must maintain average class sizes of 26 students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDP will keep the wage increase for child care workers promised in the Liberal budget, and add \$100 million in increased funding for municipalities to support child care centres struggling to stay open because of losing 4 and 5 year olds to full day kindergarten.</li> <li>The NDP platform does not include any announcements regarding Full Day Kindergarten.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PC platform does not include any announcements on child care.</li> <li>The PCs will fully implement FDK, but change the model significantly, providing one teacher for every 20 students with no early childhood educator.</li> </ul>
Staff and Salaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding saved from amalgamation would allow boards to hire more teachers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the March education funding announcements, the Liberals promised a 2% increase for Elementary Teachers of Ontario (ETFO) members so that they are paid at the same rate as non-ETFO teachers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the NDP plan, funding for 1000 new education assistants would begin in 2016. Currently most educational assistants provide support in special education programs or in regular classrooms to students with special educational needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The platform includes plans to cut 9,700 “non-teaching” staff (these could include educational assistants, school psychologists and social workers, as well as child and youth workers and others).</li> <li>The PCs would not provide members of ETFO with the 2% increase to bring them in line with other teachers.</li> </ul>
Class size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class sizes in grades 1 to 3 are currently capped at 20 students. The PCs would increase that to 23 students. In grades 4 to 8, the average would shift from 24.5 students to 26, and in high school the mandatory average would increase from 22 to 24 students. The increased class sizes would result in cuts to teaching staff.</li> </ul>

# People for Education analysis of provincial party platforms for the 2014 Ontario provincial election

<p><b>School Closings and Capital Expenditures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding saved from amalgamating school systems would allow more schools to stay open.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In funding announced in March, the Liberals provided “incentives” for boards to close more schools, committing to a new \$750 million four-year fund to help boards consolidate schools (close or merge schools to deal with declining enrolment). The fund is to be used for renovations, additions and retrofits to schools.</li> <li>At the same time, cuts were announced to “top-up” funding for underutilized schools, making it harder for boards to keep under-enrolled schools open.</li> <li>To deal with a significant backlog in school repairs, the Liberals committed to \$1.25 Billion in funding over three years for school condition improvement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2015, the NDP will create a \$60 million fund to help more schools stay open. School boards will be able to apply for funding to cover the costs of keeping schools open, renovating schools so that buildings can be shared with other services, and/or reduce fees so that non-profit groups have greater access to buildings after school and on weekends.</li> <li>The NDP has also promised more than \$100 million per year for additional capital funding for the “education sector.” It is unclear if this is in addition to the \$1 billion over 3 years in funding announced by the Liberals in March.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>
<p><b>Math Curriculum</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new “Math Action Plan” will include a review of current math curriculum, increased support for struggling students, encouragement for more teachers to get additional training to specialize in teaching math, and an assurance that all students will be taught basic math skills, including the times tables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Conservatives have promised to focus on students’ basic math skills, increase the use of specialized math teachers in grades 4 to 6 (the platform doesn’t mention grades 7 and 8), and ensure that students learn multiplication tables.</li> <li>They will provide special financial incentives to attract more university graduates with math and science backgrounds into teaching.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Test Scores and testing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PCs promise to raise targets for scores in reading, writing and math and</li> <li>They will introduce a new standardized test for science in Grade 8</li> </ul>
<p><b>Curriculum &amp; Programs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding saved from amalgamations would be funneled into special education programs and supports so that students would be able to attend school with appropriate supports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Liberals plan to broaden the goals for education to include creativity, collaboration, problem-solving and entrepreneurialism.</li> <li>They will develop a new high school specialization in innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship.</li> <li>They will replace the current grade 10 careers and civics course so that students get more experiential learning in both components, provide more support for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No announcements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new financial literacy curriculum will be introduced</li> <li>The PC platform promises to use funding saved from cuts in other areas to support schools where the majority of students are struggling and to support students with special education needs.</li> </ul>

# People for Education analysis of provincial party platforms for the 2014 Ontario provincial election

<p>Technology in the Classroom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No announcements</li></ul>	<p>guidance counsellors and new programs and policy for secondary schools to ensure that students are better prepared for future career, apprenticeship and/or post-secondary education choices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The platform promises \$10 million to implement a new program for graduating high school students called "Experience Ontario." The program will include nine months of paid community work and service.</li><li>• Over the next 3 years, the Liberals would provide \$150 million to school boards to cover the costs of professional development for teachers, and to purchase tablets, software, cameras and other learning resources. People for Education's report, Digital Learning in Ontario Schools, points to the need for increased funding in these areas.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No announcements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No announcements</li></ul>
------------------------------------	--	--	--	--