

A photograph of three diverse children sitting on the floor in a library. A girl with red hair is on the left, a boy with dark curly hair is in the center, and a girl with dark skin is on the right. They are all looking at a book held by the girl on the right. The background shows white bookshelves filled with books and a large red handprint on the wall.

Preserving Student Literacy Supports Through Public Affairs

Save Our School Libraries Campaign Update

ABOUT US

THE ONTARIO SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

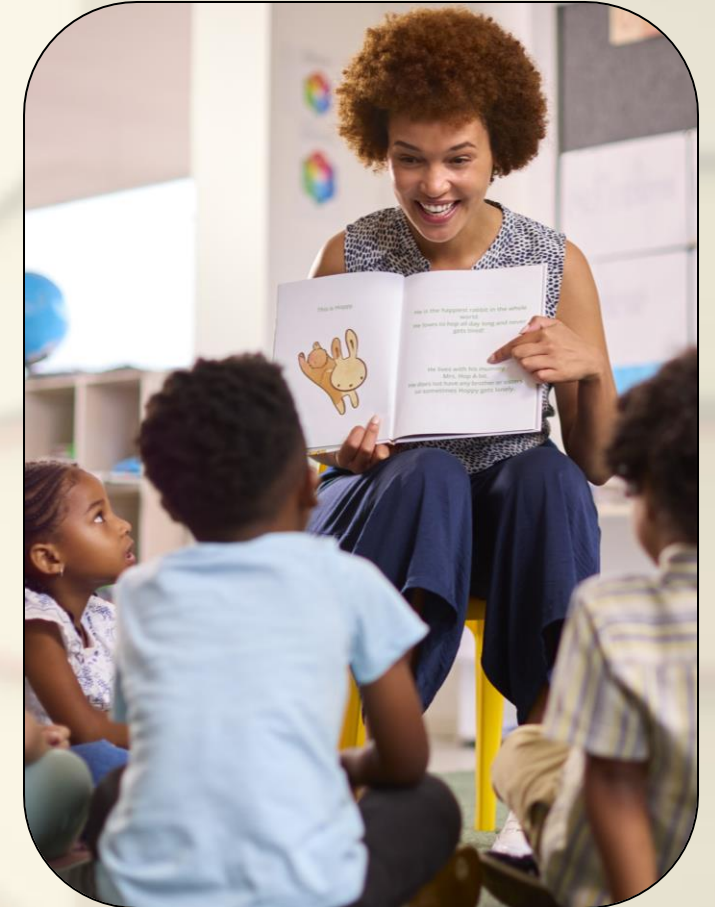
- The **Ontario School Library Association** (OSLA) provides a common voice for school library professionals needs and interests through advocacy, leadership and continuing education.
- **Over 1,300** elementary and secondary school teacher-librarians, library technicians and school board consultants are represented in OSLA.
- OSLA is **a division of the Ontario Library Association** (OLA) which is the largest library association in Canada, with over 4,000 members.



THE ISSUE

SCHOOL LIBRARIES DRIVE STUDENT SUCCESS

- Literacy and critical research skills are **foundational to STEM and other core competencies**.
- Teacher-librarians serve as literacy leaders and **provide support and expertise** to the entire school, work with classroom teachers to **achieve literacy and curriculum objectives**.
- Access to a **properly staffed school library** is a proven part of student success.
- Literacy programs result in **better outcomes** on the Grade 3 and 6 EQAO assessments.



THE ISSUE

SCHOOL LIBRARIES ARE AT RISK

- The Ministry of Education's new funding model **eliminates protected funding** for school libraries and library staff.
- The Ministry has **repealed accountability measures** intended to ensure library funding was being used as intended.
- School libraries face **potential layoffs, reassignment** of thousands of library professionals, or the **departure of school library professionals** from public schools altogether.



THE SOLUTION

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO STABILIZE SCHOOL LIBRARIES

1. Update the Core Education Funding Model to **create a defined sub-allocation for all school libraries and staffing funding**, consistent with the provincial per-student formula;
2. Update the Funding Model to **fully protect these allocations**; and **Restore the annual reporting and accountability requirements** regarding school libraries for school boards and implement recommended enhancements previously submitted by the OSLA.
- 3.

TAKING ACTION

THE “SAVE OUR SCHOOL LIBRARIES” CAMPAIGN

OSLA has taken action to highlight the sector's concerns:

- **Direct advocacy** with the Ministry and elected officials;
- The launch of the **Save Our School Libraries** campaign; and
- **Media appearances** on television and radio to discuss our concerns.



TAKING ACTION

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- OSLA has been actively engaged with the Office of the **Minister of Education**, Jill Dunlop, since the new funding model took effect.
- We continue to work with Ministry staff to share our concerns and explain how these changes impede upon their intent to **support student literacy and success.**
- OSLA will re-engage the Ministry once the Cabinet has been finalized & Minister of Education is confirmed.



TAKING ACTION

IMPACT OF THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

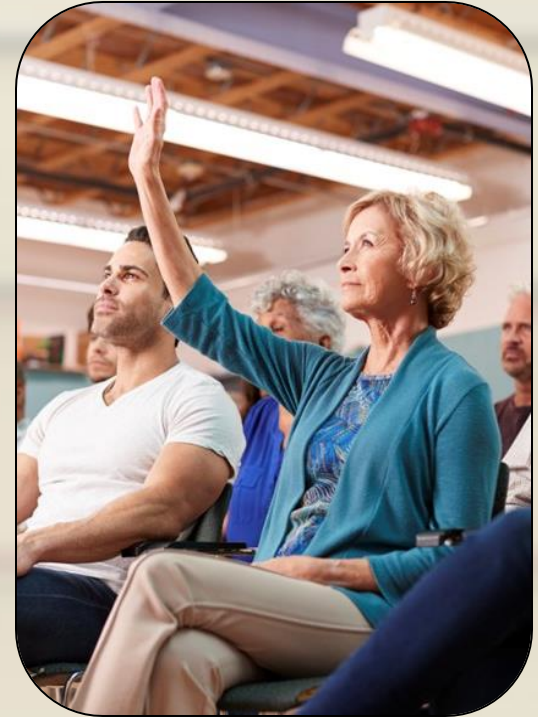
- The provincial election happened on Feb 27, 2025, with Doug Ford being re-elected as Premier.
- Together, the Ontario Library Association and Federation of Ontario Public Libraries sent out **platform surveys** to the four major political parties in Ontario to seek policy commitments in support of school libraries and other sector priorities during the election period.
- **Post-election:** engage & educate newly elected officials (16% changeover); re-engage Minister of Education



TAKING ACTION

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Post-election is an **opportunity** to engage with newly (re-)elected MPPs and to secure commitments in support of school libraries across Ontario.
- Supporters can:
 - Sign the petition;
 - Join the mailing list;
 - Download OSLA's digital toolkit;
 - Spread the word!





SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN



accessola.com/save-our-school-libraries/

School libraries create lifelong learners.

Let's restore accountability around school library funding and staffing.