

OSSTF/FEESO educational team:  
working together to  
support all students



The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation  
recognizes the contribution made by our  
60,000 educational workers employed by  
Ontario school boards and universities



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Now, more than ever, in our highly complex, highly diverse society with its demands for international competitiveness, equity and personal fulfillment, we must create the conditions for every single student to reach their full potential.

To achieve this goal we need a full educational team working to support our students. Many types of educational workers are needed for a full service education team to work. At the centre of the team is the student—the reason that the team exists. Education is more than textbooks and curriculum. It is a life changing experience.

## Teachers: Helping to shape children's lives

Teachers deliver the educational program to students on a daily basis and in a variety of subject areas. Their jobs involve a number of critical tasks including: curriculum delivery and development; lesson planning; formal and informal evaluation; and liaising with students, parents, support staff and administration. Teachers also interact on a regular basis with a number of support staff personnel regarding the special needs of their students. They deliver the extra curricular activities students need to round out their educational experience.



## **Office and clerical: Primary contact**

Initial contact for students and parents in a school or administrative building often occurs with the office and clerical staff. These members provide essential support to the safety and security of students and other staff. They are vital links for personal communication between home and school. Staff in central administration offices work behind the scenes to support the education system. Student records, ministry reporting, employer systems, even payroll, are dependent on the expertise of these team members.



## **Technicians: Audio/visual and information specialists**

Our technicians are fundamental to the efficient operation of our computer systems and all technological equipment. Our libraries, software and hardware upgrades and monitoring school/student record and accounting systems, are increasingly dependent on the role of these members. Without adequate computer technicians for example, school computers quickly become useless, eliminating some of the best tools needed to teach vital skills for the new global economy.

## **Custodian and trades: Clean, safe schools**

Trades staff and custodians are among the most important members of our school community. Their professionalism and knowledge of health and safety, fire building and public health codes ensure safe, clean comfortable learning and working environments. They bring the highly specialized skills needed to keep increasingly sophisticated plant and equipment in top shape.

## **Instructors: Support for lifelong learning**

Instructors provide specialized programs in English as a Second Language, literacy, basic numeracy and continuing education for adult learners, as well as communication skills, all related to employability. They provide upgrading to credit level and track learning progress. They facilitate adaptation to Canadian society through the teaching of English. Instructors help learners help themselves and their families. Non-credit instructors provide the life enrichment courses in popular demand.

## University support staff: Making a difference at the post secondary level

The primary contact for many students at this level is a support staff member in admissions. The educational team in universities are responsible for academic records, recreation facility management, residence life, library service and finance. You name it and they play an important role in the support of student development throughout their academic careers. Ask any faculty member and they will tell you that without the other members of the education team, student learning would grind to a halt.



## Professional student services personnel: Professionals help keep students in school and on the right track

These vital members of our educational team help students with learning, education, social, emotional and communication needs. They provide the link between students, parents and teachers to best serve the needs of all students.

Psychological staff provide assessment, diagnosis and specialized educational plans for students with learning needs and respond to families and children in crisis. Social workers, attendance counsellors and other professionals such as child and youth workers provide support to students and families who are struggling with violence, abuse, neglect, suicide, attendance at school and other social problems.

Speech/language pathologists and educational audiologists provide assessment, consultation, programming and intervention for students with communication and literacy based difficulties.

Occupational and physiotherapists provide physical/functional assessments for the physically and developmentally challenged students. They also assist in the transition process and planning for students with special needs throughout the course of the students' school life.



## Educational assistants: Critical support for students

Education assistants, interpreters and communication disorder assistants provide services to our most at-risk and special needs students. Physical, educational and social programming fosters growth in social, behavioral and academic areas. Students are afforded the opportunity to participate and succeed in our schools because educational assistants facilitate a positive, safe and healthy learning environment.

## Students have the right to services provided by the educational team

District school boards and universities in Ontario hire employees and receive funding through the Ministries. There are many cited advantages for this practice and evidence has shown that students, parents and schools are best served when services are provided by employees of local school boards and universities.



### Educational employees:

share in the vision, goals and initiatives for student success;

have a thorough knowledge of and understand the complex organizational structure of the education system;

are members of an educational school team providing support and expertise to school staff on a daily basis;

encourage and advocate home, school and community cooperation;

support administrators and teachers in addressing problems which interfere with students' achievement;

have access to student information and records to plan appropriate intervention;

are cost effective and efficient;

keep our schools, universities, and workplaces healthy and safe;

promote parent and student participation in the education process;

ensure that educational goals and academic success are priorities;

provide professional development for all staff that is relevant and linked to the curriculum and the educational needs of students.



“OSSTF/FEESO believes in a full service school that provides real opportunities for student success.”

It is our mission to provide a full educational team in every school and education facility. To achieve the best results possible, we need to convince decision-makers at the provincial and school board level, parents groups and other education partners that by working as a team we can achieve the results that we all want for Ontario’s students.



This message has been brought to you by your local secondary school teachers, university support staff, and educational workers.

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation  
Fédération des enseignantes-enseignants  
des écoles secondaires de l'Ontario  
60 Mobile Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2P3

TEL 416.751.8300  
TEL 1.800.267.7867  
FAX 416.751.3394  
www.osstf.on.ca

