

Administration of publicly funded education

Ministry of Education

- provides the overall direction for education in the province, through regulatory changes in Cabinet or changes to the *Education Act* or other legislation which impacts education
- decides how much money each school board receives after the government sets the provincial budget

School boards

- 72 Ontario school boards (English Catholic, English public, French Catholic, and French public); 10 School Authorities and one Provincial Schools Authority

Governance (trustees)

- governed by trustees, elected through municipal elections
- responsible for broad-based decision-making within the parameters of Ontario education policy, regulations and funding
- are a conduit for communication between their local constituents and local board administrators

Administration (directors and superintendents)

- oversee the delivery of education in the Board
- are members of OCT and subject to the same professional standards

Schools (principals and vice-principals)

- oversee the delivery of education in the school
- are members of OCT and subject to the same professional standards

The Ontario College of Teachers (OCT)

Purpose

- to foster public trust and confidence in education
- accountable to the public for how it carries out its responsibilities

The OCT Governing Council

- is responsible for the development and approval of the policies that regulate the teaching profession in Ontario
- sets the budget and the fee which is collected for all teachers wishing to maintain a licence

OCT regulates much of a teacher's professional life

- ensures appropriate standards for teacher training
- accredits the faculty programs a teacher took
- issues the teaching licence

Remember that the public interest is paramount, not the individual or collective interests of teachers

- OCT sets and enforces professional standards of practice and conduct for teachers
- OCT investigates complaints against teachers
- OCT can suspend or revoke a teacher's licence
- OCT acts as the prosecutor if a teacher is the subject of a complaint which results in investigation and discipline by the College. In these cases, the teacher's federation will typically step in to protect his/her rights and ensure a proper defence



Ontario Teachers' Federation

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OTF FEO

Your Voice. Your Strength.

Ontario Teachers' Federation

Votre voix. Votre force.

Fédération des enseignantes et
des enseignants de l'Ontario

Ontario's publicly funded education

Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF)

Who we are

- the professional organization for over 160,000 teachers in Ontario's publicly funded schools
- OTF was established by the *Teaching Profession Act* of 1944
- the four teacher federations are OTF Affiliates
- teachers in publicly funded schools belong to one of the Affiliates and to OTF
- students in the faculties of education are associate members of OTF
- a member of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and Education International

What we do

Pensions

OTF represents the interests of all teacher pension plan members—active and retired—as the Partner with the Ontario Government in sponsoring the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

Advocacy

- advocates for teachers, the teaching profession, and publicly funded education
- is the official liaison between teachers and the Minister of Education
- provides advice and input to both the Minister and the Ministry about policy decisions on issues such as curriculum, assessment, using technology, special education and many others
- authors numerous reports and research papers on education
- works with allies in the labour movement, partners in education and like-minded social justice groups
- amplifies teachers' voices with political parties, parents, and the public
- supports numerous charitable organizations and groups dedicated to social justice and equity such as Frontier College, Indspire, Summer Literacy Camps, and CIVIX
- unlike the Affiliates, OTF does not engage in collective bargaining

Member services

- offers a variety of services and supports for teachers
- supports learning and networking among the Subject and Division Associations through the OTF Curriculum Forum
- supports teachers with professional learning programs
- provides online teaching resources in areas such as financial literacy, working with parents, safe schools, special education, and beginning teachers and teacher candidates
- operates the Parry Sound campground which is available to the education community



Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP)



One of the most successful pension plans in the world



OTF is the partner with the Ontario Government in sponsoring the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

What it's about

- a partnership between OTF and the Ontario Government since 1991
- oversight by an eleven-member OTPP Board that is jointly appointed by OTF and the provincial government: each party appoints five directors and mutually appoints the Chair
- a professional team runs the daily operations of the plan and makes the investment decisions
- covers all teachers working in the publicly funded school system
- teachers can change schools or move between public and Catholic boards without penalty
- teachers pay into the plan and the Ontario Government matches their contributions
- OTPP is a defined benefit plan because it promises the security of a specified monthly benefit upon retirement



The Affiliates

Who they are

All teachers in publicly funded schools belong to one of the four federations (OTF Affiliates):

- Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO): teachers in francophone school boards, Catholic or public
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO): elementary teachers in English public boards
- Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA): teachers in English Catholic boards
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF): secondary teachers in English public boards

Teachers may be members of more than one Affiliate; for example, if they teach occasionally in different systems or panels.

Some Affiliates have only teacher members while others include educational support staff.



What they do

All the Affiliates are unions who represent their members in their employment relationship with school boards.

Their job is to defend and protect members' interests and ensure members receive fair treatment if they

- have a work issue or a complaint, or
- need support for due process in disciplinary matters with employers or with the College of Teachers.

They defend and protect members' interests collectively through contract negotiations.

Teacher certification

The Qualifications Evaluation Council of Ontario (QECO) determines initial salary placement and changes to category.