

Hansard Monday, April 13, 2026
(Education Funding, Bill 101)

Education funding

Ms. Marit Stiles: This question is for the Premier.

This Premier's gutting of public education has been going on since 2018, and I can tell you that parents see it every day. They see the impact of that. Our children are living it.

Now, nearly 300 teaching jobs are being cut at the Toronto District School Board alone. These are real educators, these are real classrooms, and these cuts are going to have real consequences. This is what we get when this minister is in charge of our public education system.

Why is this Premier forcing school boards to fire teachers instead of properly funding our schools?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: Leader of the Opposition, it's like déjà vu. This is a question that comes up every time this year.

The Leader of the Opposition will know that in Peel region in particular, student enrolment is down some 5,000 students. There will be fewer teachers who are required, as a result of the declining enrolment.

Having said that, every year this is something that happens. And every year, very few teachers are ever laid off, because the amount of retirements through the system far outpace the potential reduction in staffing.

I suspect that in September of this year Peel will be the exact same as it has been every single year before that.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: Well, Speaker, do you know what's not down? The needs of our students in our schools. That's not down.

This isn't about this minister and his ego and his power play to take control of our school boards. It is about our kids, and it is about our classrooms.

I want to say, as a parent, I know that you would do anything out there, parents, to support your kids.

If your kids need extra help, if your child is getting bullied at school, when there are fewer caring adults in our schools, then we know that they have nobody now to turn to.

Some 331 teachers are being let go in Peel—78 jobs in York, hundreds more cut across the province of Ontario. This is a pattern. It is a choice by this government to make cuts to our kids' classrooms.

Why is the Premier choosing to make cuts to classrooms when students are already struggling?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. We are continuing to invest at record levels in education across the province of Ontario.

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What we want to ensure, though, is that teachers, parents and students are supported to the maximum potential. We want to put more resources into the classroom and less resources on administration. Later on today, I'll be introducing a bill that continues along that that path.

Madam Speaker, what we're hearing from parents and what we're hearing from teachers is that as long as you give them the support that they need, our teachers will be able to give the best quality of education to our students. That is what this government is all about. It has been what we're about since 2018, and we'll continue on that path.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: The bottom line is that this Premier is firing teachers, is eliminating vice-principals, and is reducing supports for our kids in classrooms right now.

It means something when your kid loses their teacher. It means that we're going to have larger classes. It means we're going to have fewer supports for our children, who are already falling behind the rest of the students in this country. More students are falling behind every single day, less resources for our kids—that's what this means.

Will the Premier stop deflecting, take some responsibility, and stop firing our teachers?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Madam Speaker, let's put that into context: Literacy rates—reading and writing—are the highest that they have ever been in provincial history, under this government. Graduation rates, of course, are higher than they have ever been in recorded history, under this Progressive Conservative government. Math scores are starting to finally trend up, after a decade and a half of Liberal failure. We're starting to see those math scores move up. But do you know what? We aren't satisfied with just moving up. We want them to be the best, like they are in literacy, reading and writing.

That's why we are doubling down on programs established by previous ministers to ensure that more support gets into the classroom for our teachers so that they can deliver quality education. That is what this government is all about. We're putting more resources in the classes—\$750 supply cards for our teachers. Do you know who wants to cancel that? The NDP and the Liberals.

We'll plow more money into education because it's the right thing to do. We want better outcomes, and we'll hold people responsible for—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the member for Kiiwetinoong.

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Mr. John Fraser: My question is for the Premier.

After eight years of this tired, out-of-touch, out-of-ideas Conservative government, our schools are not safe places for our kids to learn or for our teachers to teach.

Class sizes are too big. They've grown. Special education has been starved. Simply put, kids aren't getting what they need. And there's a mental health crisis in our schools that the Premier and his government are ignoring.

So my question to the Premier is, what's it going to take for the Premier to understand that investing in our kids' schools is not just investing in them, but investing in our collective future?

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The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: This coming from a member who sat on his hands while the government that he was a part of closed 600 schools across the province of Ontario; this coming from a member who forced on students something called discovery math—and every year, as math results kept falling and falling and falling and our kids got left behind, that member and the party that he was a member of, the government, couldn't care less. Literacy rates falling behind—did they care? No.

What we're doing is, we're putting more money back into the classroom. We're supporting our teachers. We're ensuring that students, parents and teachers are at the heart of the education system. We're plowing away the bureaucracy that has held them back for so long. And what we're doing is this: We're insisting that the education system is focused on student achievement by supporting the very same people who deliver it, our teachers. That's what we're doing, and we're going to continue to do the job.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: This government has cut about \$150 million from education this year, so he can blow as hard as he wants; it's not going to change that.

After eight long years, this Conservative government—this tired, out-of-touch, out-of-gas government—has dug a billion-dollar hole in special education.

I've told the story about Marigold, a six-year-old girl in Ottawa who has been waiting two years for the support that she needs—two years. When you're six, two years is a heck of a long time. And she's one of thousands of those children across Ontario who aren't getting the support that they need.

Now the Premier's hand-picked supervisor at TDSB is cutting special education, making the lives of families here in Toronto harder.

Speaker, does the Premier think it's okay to cut special education, to have an almost billion-dollar hole and create hardship for families not just in Toronto, but across Ontario?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Again, it's interesting, coming from a member who never supported special education with funding and resources.

When we came into office, we knew that there was a challenge in special education, because for 15 long years, the Liberals did nothing. So what did previous Ministers of Education do? Supported by the Minister of Finance and Premier, we increased the budget for special education by 36%.

The member opposite complains that I've taken over Ottawa, I've taken over Toronto—I've taken over both of those school boards. Do you know why? Because they were more focused on themselves and not on students, not on parents, not on teachers.

What are we doing? We're putting more money back into the classroom. We're stripping away bureaucracy and funding the things that matter to people, and part of that is student achievement. I know that it's foreign to the Liberals—insisting that a school board focuses on student achievement as opposed to the ideologically driven failure that they had for 15 years.

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The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: In more than 50 years, there has never been a Premier who is less interested in our kids' schools than the one across from me. And it shows, Premier.

Now this Premier and his tired, out-of-touch Conservative government are making life harder for families.

When your child has an exceptionality, it's a life of advocacy—I know this, Minister, because I spent 27 years at a community office that's mine now helping families like that. I don't know if you've done that, but I know what it takes—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Through the Speaker.

Mr. John Fraser: It's not working. The Premier has made it hard for those families.

So my question simply is, when is the Premier going to get interested in education in some way and make life easier for these families of children with special needs?

Hon. Paul Calandra: The member opposite acknowledges his own failure, doesn't he? He spent 27 years in a constituency office, 15 of which he was in government—15 of which he was in government. Failure after failure after failure, supported by a group of people around him who insisted on nothing more but failure—all they cared about was ideology.

What are we doing? We've increased funding to the highest level in the history of the province—billions of dollars more to build modern schools. While he was closing them, we are building new schools. We're investing in special education. We're investing in curriculum. We're investing in teachers.

Do you know what we won't do? We won't waste money on things that keep our students from succeeding.

We'll put more money into teacher education. We'll put more money into students. We'll take away the constant battles that put teachers in the middle of a battle between school boards and parents.

We're going to focus on student achievement, and we'll let them focus on failure, because for 15 long years, they did failure very well.

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Mr. John Fraser: That's rich, from the minister who has not made one class size smaller, not funded special education properly, and is totally ignoring a mental health crisis that exists in our schools.

A big reason for that is, our class sizes have grown. The Premier and his ministers have let that happen. Right now, between grades 4 and 8, there are 1,000—that's right, 1,000—classes of more than 30 students. I know this too because my grandson is in one of them.

The Toronto District School Board supervisor, the Premier's hand-picked supervisor—that's the only address he takes in something like this, if he's going to appoint somebody he knows to something that pays \$300,000 a year. The supervisor has lifted the cap of 32. How does that make any sense?

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How does making class sizes larger help our kids?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: I suppose that what they're doing is respecting what was negotiated by the trustees and the unions in that area.

That aside, what we're doing is focusing on—and I know it kills them. We are focused on student achievement, and the results are there: highest literacy scores ever, under a Progressive Conservative government, and highest graduation rates ever, under a Progressive Conservative government.

In fact, I'm pleased that there's a Scottish delegation here—because I met with a Scottish delegation in one of their smaller, poorer districts. Do you know what they did? They revamped the system in much the same way we're doing, and now that district is one of the highest-scoring districts in Scotland. They are showing the rest of the United Kingdom what you can do when you focus on student achievement.

So do you know what we're going to do? We're going to steal good ideas from around the world, we're going to make our students better than they ever were before, and we are going to let the Liberals focus on failure, because as I said, they do it better than anybody else.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: The minister excels at finger-pointing and pumping himself up.

Speaker, class sizes aren't the only thing growing here in Ontario. The Premier's office salary budget has gone from \$2 million to over \$8 million a year. Executive offices in the Premier's government have gone from \$34 million to \$82 million—that's 243%. So the Premier's gravy train just keeps rolling; it's just not stopping for our kids.

There is a mental health crisis in our schools that everyone else can see—except for the Premier and all these folks, because it is being totally ignored. Ask any teacher. Go into any school; ask anyone in the school. Our kids are suffering. There are more behavioural instances and more violence in our schools.

But the Premier has no plan. They have cut \$150 million from education. What is the Premier going to do to make our kids' class sizes smaller, so they're safer?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Madam Speaker, talking about safety in our schools—this is a party that decided that it was more important to pull police officers out of the schools than it was to keep them in there. And what happened when they did that? What happened? We saw the results of that. We saw less safety in our schools.

So do you know what we are going to do? We are bringing police officers back into our schools. Thanks to the good work by the previous Minister of Education, they are coming back in. When I am talking to teachers, they are excited about this.

The opposition thinks that it is a teacher's responsibility to go and police bathrooms. The opposition thinks it is a teacher's responsibility to break up fights in the hallways. Do you know whose responsibility it is? It's police. That is whose responsibility it is.

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We are going to double down to support our teachers, to support our students, to make sure our schools are safer than ever before. But we're not going to do it by cutting the very things—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Order. Order.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The members of the third party will now come to order, especially the ones who know—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Thank you.

I recognize the leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: The minister would benefit from stopping to look at their rear-view mirror. Look out the front window and see what's happening.

I spoke to my neighbour who is a principal and he told me a story. He has told me stories before, but this one was about a 12-year-old boy who was going after an eight-year-old girl, so he got in between them. He got hit more than 20 times, and the teacher who came to help him got hit in the head and had to go to the ER. That's a 12-year-old. Do we need a cop for that? Do we need that? I don't think so. We need more adults in schools.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Through the Speaker.

Mr. John Fraser: Every day in Ontario, across Ontario, this is happening in schools. We know that. Go talk to any teacher. Premier, go and talk to anybody in a school, if you haven't already.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Through the Speaker.

Mr. John Fraser: And through it all, the Premier has been cutting special education. But we found \$10 million for a strip club owner or \$2 million for the family dentist.

Why will the Premier not spend some money and make our kids' class sizes smaller?

Hon. Paul Calandra: I have said this a million times; I'll say it again: We spend more on education than anybody else has ever spent in the history of the province. But ultimately, I don't think parents care about that. They don't care, when the Minister of Education gets up here and says, "Oh, I spent \$43 billion." Do you know what? They don't care about that. They care about, "How is my kid doing when he or she goes to school? What are the achievements that they are getting?"

And that is what we are focused on—student achievement. For 15 long, miserable years under the Liberals, they were focused on failure. We are focused on achievement.

This is the party whose education adviser went to jail, for crying out loud, and they're trying to give us advice on how to build a bigger, better, stronger school system. I think we'll take no lessons from them.

But the lessons that we will take are from educators—educators who are telling us that what we are doing is seeing positive results, to keep doing it.

We are going to double down and support our teachers, parents and students.

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Ms. Chandra Pasma: Our children are already in overcrowded classrooms in unsafe schools, and now, thanks to this government's funding cuts, schools are losing even more teachers and education workers next year: 124 staff in Hamilton-Wentworth, 100 teachers and ECEs in Upper Grand, 97 elementary teachers in Waterloo region, 78 custodians and trades workers in York region, 30 elementary teachers in Waterloo Catholic.

Our kids are struggling under this government; EQAO scores show that.

Why does the Premier think our kids deserve fewer teachers and supports instead of more?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: What the EQAO scores show is that when we started focusing on proven delivery of curriculum, we started seeing results increase. That is why our literacy rates—reading and writing—are literally the highest they have ever been in recorded provincial history, under this Progressive Conservative government.

Math scores are starting to increase. But we've said that we're not happy with slight increases in math scores. We have to be able to compete with the rest of the world. That's why we are doubling down on some of the things that were brought in by previous ministers to put more supports for math in our schools—and we're going to see results; I am very confident of that.

What we're doing is putting more money into the classroom. They have already said the \$750 school supply fund—the Liberals and NDP are going to take that away. The Liberals called it an unnecessary frill for teachers. I don't think giving teachers the resources they need for their classroom is an unnecessary frill. I think it's what helps our students achieve, by giving teachers the support that they need.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Ottawa West–Nepean.

Ms. Chandra Pasma: Let's talk about the minister's record on getting money into classrooms. He appointed supervisors who are billing almost \$400,000 a year for their paycheques while cutting educators from our schools: 515 in Toronto, 331 in Peel, 120 in Ottawa-Carleton, 77 in Toronto Catholic.

The minister's vision is grift for Conservative insiders and cuts for our kids.

Will the Premier do what parents actually want: Tell his minister to stop firing teachers and properly fund our schools?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Millions of dollars spent by trustees fighting each other—not in the classroom, supported by the NDP and the Liberals, right? That is what the record is. A trustee going out and buying a milkshake at 2 o'clock in the morning because he needed to wash down his cheeseburger that he had at 2 o'clock in the morning—that's okay for the Liberals or the NDP, right? That is the type of system they want.

Do you know what we want? A system that supports our teachers, a system that supports our parents, a system that takes away the conflict between school boards and parents. And do you know who is always put in the middle of that? It's our teachers. When those two fight, it's teachers who are put in the middle.

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What we're going to do is support teachers. And the results are there: highest literacy rates, highest graduation rates, and math scores finally starting to trend up. It drives the opposition crazy, because everything they've talked about for 20 years in the education system has proven to be a failure.

Under Conservative governments, all the stats are going in the right direction. But we're going to double down and work even harder.

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M^{me} Lucille Collard: My question is for the Minister of Education.

It's no secret that the minister is planning to bring changes to school board governance, and the minister's past comments to this effect are raising serious concerns, particularly with the francophone community.

For generations, French-language school boards have been at the heart of protecting our language and culture. This is not simply an administrative question; it is a constitutional right. The Supreme Court of Canada has been very clear: Section 23 of the charter guarantees not only access to French education, but also the right to manage and control the education.

My question is simple: Will the minister commit right now to not taking any measures that would weaken the autonomy and governance of francophone school boards in Ontario?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Yes.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Question?

M^{me} Lucille Collard: I'm very much looking forward to the announcement this afternoon and the new legislation that will be introduced, and I will be looking very closely—because when we talk about keeping the governance at the same level it's at, with the same power, the control and management, this is very important. So I look forward to this, and I will hold the minister to this promise.

Hon. Paul Calandra: Sometimes you've just got to go on the fly when you get an answer that you like, I suppose. So I do appreciate the member, which really highlights—I don't know why it is that they've picked the three-time leader of the opposition for the third time when you have a qualified person sitting just beside him.

Let me conclude by saying this: I'm very proud of the work that is done in our francophone school boards. The results far outpace those in our public system. We're going to be doing even additional work. I know Minister Quinn announced some teacher education reforms which will help us get more educators in the system, including the francophone system, building on some of the work done by the Minister of Francophone Affairs. So I continue to be very optimistic about the future of francophone education across the province of Ontario.

Technology in schools

Mr. Stephen Blais: My question is for the Minister of Education. Parents across Ontario are telling us that school is no longer the refuge it once was. It's yet another place where children cannot escape screens—smart boards, Chromebooks, Google Classroom. And when a teacher

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loads up a YouTube video, children often sit through ads. Those same children go home unable to focus, unable to put the screen down, and parents are told to fix it.

Denmark has brought back textbooks. Sweden has returned to paper after declining literacy rates. They tried more screens, and they're reversing course. Screens don't always lead to better student achievement.

Will the minister commit today to a comprehensive review of technology in the classroom?

Hon. Paul Calandra: I appreciate the question. It is something that we have been reviewing.

The member will know, of course, that there are very few people who publish textbooks in Canada.

It's something that the Council of Ministers of Education nationwide are actually seized with—what is the balance between technology and textbooks and paper? And I think it is a very important discussion that we have to have, because there is obviously a balance that has to be struck.

We have to prepare our kids for the jobs of tomorrow, but we are hearing increasingly—and it's not only just that type of technology—as I said, the availability, with Minister Quinn. We also have to look at cellphones and the impact that that is having in our classrooms and whether we need to expand the ban on cellphones even further. It is work that is continuing.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Orléans.

Mr. Stephen Blais: Ontario is the largest market in the country. If Ontario schools aren't using textbooks, it's no wonder people aren't producing them anymore.

Teachers know students are struggling to focus. They know children learn differently from a book than from a screen, but many feel trapped. The textbooks are gone. The workbooks are gone. Even photocopies are rationed, replaced by screens, replaced by subscriptions and replaced, in some cases, by advertisements to our kids.

School should not be a place where kids are trapped to the screen.

Will the minister hear teachers, hear parents, conduct a real, comprehensive review, show leadership in Canada, and bring more textbooks and paper back into the classroom?

Hon. Paul Calandra: The member will know, of course, that the trend actually started under the previous Liberal government, withdrawing textbooks—paper—from our classrooms. That is when they started to devalue the curriculum and allow for a greater interpretation of curriculum, forcing that workload onto the teacher. We have said that we're going to go in a bit of a different direction on that.

Make no mistake: The use of technology is very important. We have to prepare our kids for the jobs of tomorrow, and technology is a very important part of that. But I would agree with the member that there has to be a balance. So we are working very closely with ministers of education across the country—in fact, with jurisdictions around the world who are grappling with the same challenges.

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Again, ironically, we have a Scottish delegation here who has actually led the way in many of their jurisdictions in creating that balance, and the results that they are seeing are very, very encouraging.

So, to be very clear, it is something that we are looking at—what's the right balance? We're going to make sure that we have that balance.

We're going to support our teachers and boards in ensuring that our kids have the best opportunity to succeed.

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Ms. Lee Fairclough: Last week, students across Brampton walked out of their classrooms as 300 teachers face layoffs affecting 33 of 39 high schools.

In Toronto, another 600 teaching positions are cut.

At the same time, one of the government-appointed supervisors removed class size caps for grade 4 to grade 8.

After eight long years of this tired Conservative government, this will mean larger classes, less support and fewer opportunities for students across Ontario.

Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Students are already stuck in overcrowded classrooms. Why is he making it worse?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: This class size she refers to was negotiated in the collective agreement, so the supervisor is honouring the collective agreement.

Having said that, we are seeing significant declining enrolment in Peel and declining enrolment at the TDSB. The notices reflect that declining enrolment.

Having said that, this is something that happens every year at this time of year, as we ascertain what the enrolment will be in our schools in September. As happened last year and the year before, very few teachers ever actually lose their job, because the pace of retirements far exceeds the potential for teacher reductions, and I suspect this year will be no different than that.

That is why the Minister of Colleges and Universities announced a new program to actually accelerate teacher education—because we are expecting a teacher shortage in the years ahead, as I said, as the pace of retirements simply outpaces the amount of teachers we have in the system.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The member for Etobicoke–Lakeshore.

Ms. Lee Fairclough: That didn't answer my question.

And it has been eight long years of these decisions. The Conservatives are systematically hollowing out public education.

Can the Premier name a single teacher who supports these cuts?

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Hon. Paul Calandra: Actually, I was just in a number of schools last week. I was touring a number of schools, and they consistently tell me the same thing: “Don’t stop. Keep doing what you’re doing.” What they keep saying to me is that for 15 long years, what the Liberals did was put teachers in the middle of battles between parents and school boards—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I apologize to the minister.

Hon. Paul Calandra: They said that for 15 long years, teachers were put in the middle of battles between school boards and parents. And they don’t want to do that. What they want to do is teach our kids, and they want to be supported by the Ministry of Education.

I was in the chief government whip’s riding just the other day, and teacher after teacher after teacher said to me, “You’re on the right path. Keep doing what you’re doing.”

Having said that, I will say this: I did see the chief government whip’s graduation photo from 20 years back. I would be willing to share that with anybody who wants—especially on my side. It is quite the haircut that he had back then.

We’re going to continue to focus on teachers and the delivery of excellence in—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the member for Oakville North–Burlington.

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MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam: Over the next year, our province will lose hundreds of teachers from our overcrowded, struggling classrooms—300 educators from the Toronto school board alone, and another 77 from the Catholic school board in Toronto. Across the GTA, we’re seeing hundreds more educator positions being slashed in both Peel and Hamilton—hundreds even more in Waterloo and Guelph.

Doesn’t the Premier understand that crowded classrooms make them less safe? Will the Premier put students first and stop endangering our educators and students?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: As I’ve said on a number of occasions, of course, this is something that happens every year at this time. They’re the exact same questions that we get from the opposition every year at this time. They’re usually not followed up in September, when all of those teachers have been rehired—or more. They usually don’t follow up with those questions, saying, “Thank you for the incredible investments that you’re making in education that have allowed us to hire even more teachers.”

Madam Speaker, I’ll say this: This is an NDP that has said that the \$750 teacher supply card—they’re going to rip it up because they don’t think teachers deserve it. In fact, the Liberals went one step further. They thought it was an unnecessary frill for teachers. This is a party, along with the Liberals, that has voted against a budget which is increasing funding to education to record levels across the province of Ontario.

What we’re going to do is focus on student achievement, full stop. How do you achieve great results? By focusing on resources for our teachers, because they are the backbone, the lifeblood of our education system. That’s who we’re going to support, and we’re going to do it

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without the conflict between boards and parents. We're going to give our teachers the support to grow students the best.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Toronto Centre.

MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam: Once again, that answer just shows us that the government is out of touch and untruthful.

Ontario's students are set to lose hundreds of—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I will ask the member to withdraw the comment.

MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam: Withdraw, withdraw.

Ontario's students are set to lose hundreds of teachers—and that is the truth—because of this government's misguided choices. This means larger classrooms, fewer supports, more violence and students falling behind.

After eight years of indifference, incompetence and underfunding, will the Premier finally take some responsibility for the state of our schools and stop firing teachers?

Hon. Paul Calandra: I always love listening to the NDP. Do you know why? Because for the 15 long years that the Liberals were in power, the NDP actually propped them up.

So where was the member when police were being dragged out of our schools and student safety was starting to decline? Where was the NDP? They were the ones leading the charge. When the Liberals were closing 600 schools, where were the NDP? Propping them up—propping them up, leading the charge. When Liberals were cutting and firing teachers, what were the NDP doing? Propping them up every step of the way. When they were closing hospitals, what did the NDP do? Prop them up. When they refused to build transit and transportation, the NDP propped them up. That's all they do—they prop up. They don't build. They have no way of understanding what it takes to build a bigger, better, stronger province of Ontario, and that's why they're never allowed to govern Ontario.

Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026

Mr. Calandra moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 101, An Act to amend various Acts in respect of education and child care

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?
Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Education?

Hon. Paul Calandra: Speaker, if passed, the bill would enact the Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026, which contains five schedules: Schedule 1 would amend the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014; schedule 2 would amend the Education Act; schedule 3 would amend the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario Act; schedule 4 would amend the Ontario College of Teachers Act; and schedule 5 would amend the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act.