



Public Statement

Bill 33 Passes with No Public Hearing Process

November 19, 2025

Today, Bill 33, *Supporting Children and Students Act 2025*, passed Third Reading at Queen's Park. There were no committee hearings, preventing the public from taking part in the democratic process and having the opportunity to publicly debate, review and offer suggestions or revisions to the bill. The Ontario Principals' Council, representing 5,400 principals and vice-principals in the province's public elementary and secondary schools, is disappointed that no opportunity was provided to express our concerns about the bill to a committee of the Legislature.

School Board Operations

Ontario currently operates under a system of democratically elected school board trustees. Municipal voters have the opportunity to elect trustees who are responsible for the governance of their local school board. This process ensures that citizens have the right to participate in and contribute to how our publicly funded education system operates.

We are alarmed that one of the major aspects of Bill 33 is the additional powers that will be granted to the Minister of Education over the control, responsibilities and operation of school boards. These include student achievement and well-being, financial affairs, capital assets, board governance, parent engagement and the day-to-day management of boards. The Minister will be able to appoint investigators, take control of boards, and control the appointment and dismissal of board officers and employees.

We see these powers as unnecessary, overreaching and troubling, and are concerned about the centralization of board operations that will result from the Minister's expanded powers. Local input, locally elected trustees and decision-making that takes local contexts into consideration must remain in place. **While a review of the trustee role is reasonable, we believe that they should continue to work with and represent the will of school communities.**

Five school boards in Ontario are currently under provincial supervision. The result has been the removal of democratically elected trustees from the governance of the local school board. Parents/caregivers are no longer able to contact or engage with their trustee, no parental input is included in any decisions being made about their child's school and decisions about school

board operations are being made by one person, as opposed to a board. Under Bill 33, every school board in the province could face the same consequences.

We are also concerned with the purpose of the recently announced Student and Family Support Offices, which are supposed to provide parents and guardians with a way to get help regarding their child's education and resolve matters that may escalate beyond the school. This is the work currently done by school trustees, making the offices duplicative, unnecessary and an inappropriate use of money within the system.

Presence of Police Officers in Schools

Bill 33 will give local police services access to school premises, permit police to participate in school programs and implement school resource officer programs.

While the presence of police officers in schools can be beneficial to students, it can also cause harm, anxiety, fear and disengagement. We are concerned about how students, advocacy groups, community members and school leaders will interpret the presence of police in schools.

There have been cases throughout the province where students have expressed concern about their sense of belonging due to the presence of police officers in schools. No student should be forced to attend school in an environment in which they feel unsafe, unwelcome, surveilled, apprehensive or anxious due to the presence of police in the building. We know that many communities, such as racialized, Indigenous, neurodiverse and those with disabilities, have suffered adverse impacts of police brutality and profiling.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has raised concerns about the presence of police officers in schools, particularly regarding the potential impact on Black and other racialized students. The OHRC report, [Dreams Delayed](#), highlights that police in schools may lead to increased surveillance and negative mental health outcomes for Black students.

We believe the presence of police officers in schools should be a local matter for boards/schools to determine, so that student needs can be respected.

While we would have welcomed the opportunity to present our concerns and recommendations to a public committee of the Legislature before the bill passed Third Reading, we have offered to be part of the consultation process and regulation development for this bill, as changes to the sector will be significant. During that process, we urge the government to respect the role of democratically elected school trustees and allow schools to implement programs that best meet the needs of their school community.