

Education Worker Central Bargaining Table Update April 18, 2023

OSSTF/FEESO met with representatives from the government and the Council of Trustees' Associations (CTA) on April 18 at the Education Worker central bargaining table.

The parties engaged in meaningful negotiations that moved our discussions forward. These talks will continue the next time the parties meet at the table.

Additionally, we are in the process of conducting a full analysis on the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), which were released by the Ford government yesterday afternoon. The GSNs establish the base funding for education. Our initial review shows that the government's claim of a 2.7 per cent increase in funding is false. They were able to arrive at that number by artificially reducing last year's total by not including funds from the 2022-23 GSNs (such as the money allocated for the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund) in order to make this year's funding appear higher in comparison. When the actual numbers are compared, the increase for this year is only 1.4 per cent. However, as enrollment has increased 0.6 per cent, the true increase is a mere 0.8 per cent.

Overall, when adjusted for inflation, per pupil spending is down from last year by over \$600. Since taking office in 2018, the Ford government has [cut per pupil funding by \\$1200](#) as detailed in an article by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. OSSTF/FEESO will be sharing these figures and more details with the media in the coming days as well as continuing our review and analysis of the recently introduced *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*.

OSSTF/FEESO will continue to provide updates to Members. You can find general bargaining information on the [Bargaining 101 page](#) on the OSSTF/FEESO Update webpage.

Recent Media Coverage:

**Note that some media links may have paywalls

[Doug Ford government sets sights on Ontario's school system](#)

[Ford government says it will take more control of school boards 'to refocus on what matters'](#)

The Bargaining Bulletins are now available on the *myOSSTF* section of the OSSTF/FEESO website. Please check *myOSSTF* for updates.