WORLD EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL DAY – MAY 16, 2026

World Education Support Personnel (ESP) Day was established following the 2018 Education International (EI) WESP Conference and the 2015 WESP Resolution. It serves as a global opportunity to recognize the essential role education workers play in creating safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments for all students. The original declaration called for stronger recognition, rights, and respect for education workers worldwide—an effort that continues today.

On May 16, 2026, OSSTF/FEESO District 7 Office Professionals and Technicians will once again join education organizations around the world in celebrating World Education Support Personnel Day. It's a meaningful moment to pause and recognize the people who keep our schools running smoothly every day—often behind the scenes.

At Bluewater District School Board, Office Professionals and Technicians are at the center of daily operations across the district. Their roles are diverse and vital, including School Office Managers, Office Professionals, Library Clerks, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Application Support, Software Application Trainers, Accounting, Purchasing, Transportation, Learning Services, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Adult Education/Blended Learning/Summer School, Business Services Development, Student Success Programs, Plant Services, Health and Safety, and Research Specialists. Together, they support everything from student safety and communication to programming and system operations, helping ensure that students have the tools and support they need to succeed.

For many students and families, education support personnel are the first point of contact and a constant source of support. They are problem-solvers, organizers, and trusted members of their communities—often living and working in the same areas they serve. Whether in one school or across multiple sites, they help connect classrooms, families, and communities.

Despite their critical contributions, education support staff are still too often overlooked. Many are increasingly facing workplace violence and challenging working conditions, highlighting the need for stronger protections, supports, and recognition. Despite ongoing challenges and pressures from public education underfunding, education support staff continue to go above and beyond to ensure students and staff receive the high-quality support they deserve. Their dedication and professionalism make them an essential part of the education team in every school and administrative centre.

A strong public education system depends on a full team effort. Alongside teachers, education support personnel play a key role in student success. Supporting their working conditions, job security, and professional recognition strengthens schools and benefits students across Ontario. Education remains one of Ontario's most important investments in the future—and support staff are an essential part of making that future possible.

On behalf of the OSSTF District 7 Office Professionals and Technicians Bargaining Unit (OPT), we invite you to take a moment on May 16 to recognize and celebrate the important work of support staff. A simple thank you can go a long way in acknowledging their professionalism, dedication, and the care they bring to their roles every day.