

Thinking about academic achievement, what should the ministry and school boards

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STOP doing	Votes
<p>Stop changing core parts of the curriculum (and how it is taught) every few years. It seems the only ones who benefit from these changes are the consultants and PhD's in education who have never taught in a classroom.</p> <p>Basic math is still a skill worth having - even in the digital age. So are good grammar, accurate spelling, clear handwriting, etc.</p>	87
Stop segregating high schools.. they should all teach and have same curriculum not sport/arts or academic specific	29
EQAO is not a way to measure student learning. Get rid of it.	23
<p>Choose the most achieving students and try to raise the rest to that level, not the other way around</p> <p>(I think I agree with this but it confusing as a "stop" - maybe better as a start - start choosing the most achieving etc., and not the other way around?)</p>	18
Not all children learn the same. Not all children will be a CEO. Time to adjust programs so extra curricular can come back. Need for more creative learning and more hands on learning as in past.	18
Keep teaching with passion and enthusiasm. Those who achieve should be recognized, participation is not an award it's an expectation.	17
Destreaming courses as ONE class does not fit ALL.	15
Br	9
Stop teaching "discovery math" with the dreadful Nelson books. Return to the core skills that our children need to study STEM subjects.	9
Stop split classes. Its impossible for a teacher to teach two grades at the same time.	9
Stop indoctrinating students with ideology contrary to the Catholic faith (and or family values) of many of our students.	8
Allowing teachers to use Youtube to teach lessons. What are they getting paid to do? If thats the case, it should come from board	6
Memorization is not a measure of academic achievement. People don't memorize their immediate family's telephone numbers. Test application.	5
Changes need to be made to how childrens marks are reported. This scale 1-4 not great	4

No masks in schools affects student achievement	2
Throwing out new curriculum documents at Board staff and expect miracles of delivery when there are zero resources to support the changes	1
STOP encouraging using a calculator in MATH from grade 2 onward. This discourages the development of the essential skill: MENTAL math	1

START doing	Votes
Please start teaching science by qualified science teachers. It is abundantly clear how poorly it has been taught judging by the asinine ideas some people have of how diseases and medications work. Perhaps if critical thinking was taught, not as many would succumb to dubious sources of information.	104
Introduce and implement a practical education based on life skills, banking, mortgages, budgeting etc.	100
Bridge the gap between high school and university/college.	96
Reintroduce a failing grade; failure is a real thing. (And a motivating one, i might add)	72
Need to return grade 13 so that our youth can have a longer time to decide on their future career choices.	68
Career studies and guest speakers to provide insight and inspiration to young students about the world beyond the classroom.	54
Start creating a core teaching. Too much freedom to teachers to choose what they teach. Who holds them accountable?	54
Greater focus on life and soft skills. ex organization, planning, group work, debate, presentation, applied case studies.	52
Start measuring & reporting on how much of the curriculum gets covered for each grade.	48
Subjects like math, english, science should be taught by a subject teacher once in grade 4 like high school	46
Acknowledge children doing more than needed volunteer hours.	46
Replace exams for inperson learning with culminating tasks (CPT) which were used on line. This created less stress & anxiety for the kids.	42
Students that go above and beyond their volunteer hours should be honored for their dedication to the community.	41

There needs to be a concrete plan in place to deal with the ever widening learning gaps. This is the new education pandemic. The ministry or boards have not had this at the forefront of their discussions. The plan needs to happen now!	38
Where is music and arts? They are lost with the focus of STEM. Not everyone will be an engineer. We need both	29
hold students and teachers accountable. Being lenient pandemic or not only hurts our future generations	25
Recognizing students who put effort into their work to help motivate others rather than praising everyone for just being present.	23
Change the parent council By laws that you can only sit in the chair and cochairs positions no more than 2 consecutive years with a gap year after. Some parent councils can't make any changes when it's the same parents running the committee and new members voices are not heard and don't have opportunities to make change . If the quarum is a group of parents that are friends acting as a clique changes cannot be made. Why have a parent council if you just do the same programs every year and won't try new things? YES!!!!!!!!!!	22
School boards need to allow parent councils more access to engage with parents. All boards should follow the example of the TDSB and give chairs access to school messenger. Can I like this 1,000 times?? Councils are too disconnected from the parents they serve - and unfortunately, I think boards like it this way.	20
Access all learning skills of children. Teach best and dominant learning skill per child and mix within class, to work on strengths and weaknesses.	18
Develop & implement a learning strategy to engage the boys. Girls have long been outperforming the boys, especially at the Secondary level.	16
Work with Employment Ontario service providers to help build successful skills for careers and soft skills, starting in younger grades.	13
Consider the unintended damage we are causing our future generations by not embracing Computational Learning - Thinking with Data, and code.	12
Introduce summer school in August like Toronto boards for high school students.	11
Getting the community involved in school. With the current roadblocks the school community is missing out on the valuable contributions from members of the community.	10

<p>Giving students with Autism Spectrum Disorder or special needs an educational assistant for the full in-class time. That way they can observe, redirect or allow for sensory breaks, without the student being nervous, agitated or shamed for needing to leave or not completing a task. Also, they can help with daily social obstacles and behavioral issues that occur in classrooms.</p>	8
<p>Outdoor education and outdoor classrooms, where students learn history, geography, maths, sciences and arts in the natural world. In addition, students get to learn about cultures, survival skills, mapping, surveying and the scientific method, with real practice experience.</p>	3
<p>All boards should have an acceleration policy. This was a recommendation from the Royal Commission on Learning. Lack of such a policy is holding students back. Students who are not challenging may become disengaged and underachieve or drop out. Students should be able to move through their courses at an appropriate pace and have the option to either graduate earlier, or take more courses.</p>	2
<p>ACTUALLY differentiating instruction. Educators are supposed to do this anyway. When I ask my kids if this happens in their classes, they just laugh.</p>	2
<p>Provide appropriate resources for destreamed classes - can't put every ability level in a classroom with one teacher and expect success. Not realistic. Better yet, stop the destreaming madness.</p>	1
<p>Introducing FRENCH language from grade 1 onward is a good thing. Introduce much more vocabulary and its spelling during elementary school</p>	1
<p>Similar to allowing school councils to have contact with parents, CPIC (parent involvement committees) should have direct contact with council chairs, and council chairs should have the resources (contact info at a minimum) to be able to interact with each other.</p>	1
<p>Advisory committees do not have enough influence. Ministry needs to find ways to give them a stronger role in the governance process, such as a direct reporting role to the Ministry. Ministry could also seek direct feedback from members of these groups as to how effective they think their roles are, or what improvements could be made. Includes school councils, parent involvement committees and SEACs. Anonymous surveys from individual members would likely provide for more authentic feedback from parents/members.</p>	1
<p>ACTUALLY meeting students where they are. Educators always say they do this but when I ask my kids about it, they just laugh.</p> <p>There will be significant learning loss and gaps after this pandemic. It is absolutely critical that these be properly addressed. Our kids' futures is directly at stake!</p>	1

<p>Start holding school boards accountable to the Education Act!!! There needs to be a dispute resolute process - Ontario Ombudsman office is not helpful and way too slow.</p> <p>Trustees do not have the appropriate expertise or knowledge and frankly are not paid enough for this role and the worst part is - they are far too political.</p>	0
Simplify the curriculum to reduce repetition and focus on essential learning. i.e. probability in grade 1?? Why??	0
<p>Ensure high school students have exposure to end of course exams and develop exam writing skills. This is absolutely crucial for students continuing on a post-secondary pathway, especially university where exams can be worth 50% or even more, and/or earning a course credit is dependant on the result of the final exam.</p> <p>This is one of the significant casualties of the COVID pandemic.</p>	0

CONTINUE doing	Votes
Streaming according to levels	77
Providing opportunity for students to mentor each other. Teacher of the day was a great incentive for young elementary students and provides them with learning leadership qualities.	13
Implementing technology into the curriculum, but don't forget the fundamentals	5
follow the recommended health guidelines from the local and provincial and federal Health units.	1
Allow for and fund extra-curricular activities for ALL.	1
Some type of standardized testing is needed, whether it be EQAO, a revised version of EQAO or something different. There needs to be some type of accountability and independent assurance that the system is working.	1
Offering advanced programming for students who are not sufficiently challenged in mainstream classes - not just academic level but more AP programs, IB programs, enriched/enhanced etc., Especially important if destreaming continues as otherwise, advanced students will continue to be left behind. Equity means every child has the right to achieve their full potential and this includes advanced and gifted students.	1
Allowing Catholic boards to respect Catholic doctrine and not succumb to secular trends.	0