

# smaller classes **BIG** **DIFFERENCE**

## **KEY MESSAGES** **TOGETHER FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED** **EDUCATION RALLY** **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026**

On Saturday, October 24, teachers, education workers, families, and community members will gather at five regional rallies to show the government that we are united in our demand for increased funding for publicly funded education. These family-friendly events are organized by ETFO, AEFO, OECTA, OSBCU-CUPE, and OSSTF. We are calling for adequate funding to lower class sizes, increase supports for students with special education needs, address rising violence in schools, and fully resource schools so students, teachers and education workers can thrive.

### **SPEAKING POINTS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION**

- Large visible actions, like a community rally, where educators and families come together, help demonstrate that there is public support for increased government investments in public education.
- These rallies strengthen our position during central bargaining by showing unity in our demands to improve our working conditions and students' learning conditions.
- Our collective presence at all five rallies shows that support for our bargaining demands is province-wide and growing.
- Participation in this rally is important because there is an underfunding crisis in our schools and the situation is getting worse.
- The Ford government's \$6.5 billion in underfunding since 2018 has left schools without enough staff and supports. As a result, students are learning in increasingly crowded classrooms, educators are facing heavier workloads, and many students are not receiving the supports they need to succeed.
- Educators are being asked to do more with less while students lose access to programs, services, and supplies they need to thrive.
- Large and increasingly complex classes make it harder for educators to meet individual student needs.
- Ontario's two million students deserve well-staffed, well-resourced schools.

### **What should I say when inviting someone?**

**Keep it personal:** Share what you are seeing and feeling in schools and why it matters to you, to students, and to families.

**Keep it simple:** Say, "Retention of teachers and education workers is a real issue, so we need to improve working conditions. Every student, especially our most vulnerable learners, needs to be fully supported to succeed." Then ask, "Will you join me at the October 24 rally so we can send this government a message together?"

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## Where can people find their rally and RSVP?

Rallies will be held in London, Ottawa, Sudbury, Toronto, and Thunder Bay on Saturday, October 24, at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. ETFO is strongly encouraging members to sign up by October 12. Scan the QR code on the rally materials to register and sign up for the bus, if you need a free ride.