



PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION

As the front-line practitioners in Ontario's schools, education workers acquire invaluable expertise and gain a unique professional perspective on issues that arise in our publicly-funded education system. All too often, however, teachers and other education workers are not consulted or given an opportunity to collaborate in the planning of initiatives, and decisions are made without the benefit of their expertise.

If we want to ensure that Ontario's public education system is moving in the right direction, all members of the education team must be part of the dialogue.

PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT

A world-class education system understands and values the judgement of the professionals in the classroom. Teachers are highly-trained professionals, and it is crucial that they are trusted to make decisions regarding:

- ASSESSING** appropriate planning and instructional strategies
- INCORPORATING** instruction to meet student needs
- EFFECTIVE** assessment and evaluation methods
- APPROPRIATE STRATEGIES** to meet curriculum expectations
- DIRECTING** individual professional learning

STANDARDIZED TESTING

OSSTF/FEESO has never been opposed to testing. To be of value, however, tests must be designed as an authentic measure of student learning, and the results of those tests must be understood in the context of other evaluation tools that educators employ on a daily basis.

The regular publication of standardized test results from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has created a politically-charged environment where schools, portrayed as competing with one another, receive questionable ratings based on narrow criteria. And as a result, families are choosing schools, and even making crucial real estate decisions, based on selective data that fails to reflect the complexities of a contemporary learning environment.

OSSTF/FEESO IS CALLING FOR:

- A commitment that the next government will require all boards of education in Ontario to implement joint consultation committees with OSSTF/FEESO at the board and school level.
- A commitment that the professional judgement of education workers be formally recognized as a key factor in determining instructional strategies and student assessment.
- A commitment that the EQAO and its testing programs will be discontinued, and that savings generated will be reinvested into student learning.