



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education

FROM: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

DATE: 22 February 2019

RE: Engagement on Class Size

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on class sizes in Ontario.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is the largest school board in Eastern Ontario, with 148 schools serving over 70,000 students. The OCDSB is also one of the largest employers in the region.

The OCDSB has had the opportunity to review the submissions of both the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) with respect to the class size engagement. The OCDSB is in support of the positions made in those submissions and encourages the Ministry to incorporate these principles into any legislative amendments or policy changes.

The OCDSB's longstanding view has been that hard caps on individual class sizes do not provide the needed flexibility for schools to create the most effective learning environments for students. The District believes that the replacement of hard caps with board-wide averages more effectively allows schools to create learning environments that best meet student needs. This would permit principals to organize classes and class sizes based, in part, on the needs and characteristics of the students. This is difficult to achieve where hard caps are imposed.