

Home and School members have advocated to better meet the health, safety, education, and social needs of children and youth since 1916. Issues have been raised and solutions recommended to governments and school boards by Home and School Associations, Home and School Councils, and the provincial organization.

Home and School Association members:

- make the time to be involved in good decision-making at their school and school board.
- appoint an advocacy chair for their group.
- survey members to determine where they have concerns.
- bring the advice and input of their members to the principal and the school council in their school, and to their Home and School Council.
- examine new policy resolutions coming to the OFHSA Annual Meeting, and send members to vote on their behalf
- bring forward new policy resolutions of their own for member consideration at the OFHSA Annual Meeting. The OFHSA policy document drives our provincial advocacy each year.
- correspond with their school boards and the provincial government on issues raised by their members.
- send copies of correspondence to the Federation office and to their Home and School Council.

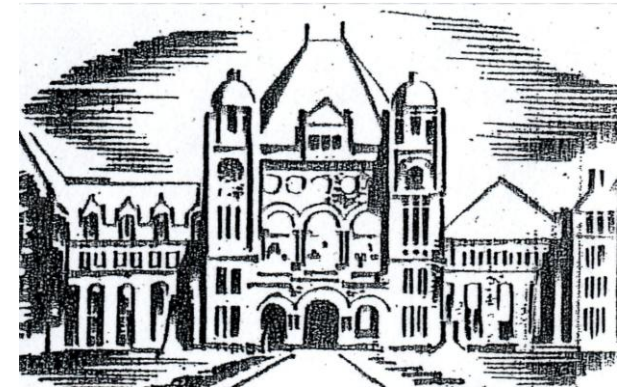
Home and School Council Members:

- track changes in policies that affect children and families at their school board.
- request a seat on all school board committees on behalf of their members (SEAC, School Closure, Health and Safety are a few examples).

- collect feedback from member schools and forward to their school board.
- bring member concerns to the Federation for action.
- volunteer to represent OFHSA members on a Ministry committee or at a meeting of provincial stakeholders.
- bring forward new policy resolutions for voting at the OFHSA Annual Meeting.
- write articles for *The OFHSA Bulletin* reporting on school and school board issues being raised in their area.

OFHSA Provincial Board Members:

- Correspond with government ministries and provincial partner organizations to advocate for change.
- raise issues of concern for members, with government and education leaders.
- prepare briefs and responses based on input of members and OFHSA policy document.
- provide advice on behalf of members to all agencies on health, safety, education and social issues affecting children and youth.
- arrange representation for all meetings with provincial partners to recommend new policy and legislation (e.g. EQAO, Young Worker Health & Safety, Curriculum Implementation, School Bus Safety Panel, Ontario College of Teachers).
- keep members informed about changes and new initiatives.
- bring issues of national concern to the Canadian Home and School Federation for action.



ADVOCACY: HOW OFHSA MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT ACTION

THE UNITED VOICE OF OFHSA MEMBERS MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Resolutions and briefs prepared by respected organizations like the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations do influence government policies, decisions, and actions.

Well-reasoned positions put forward by the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations over its history have affected many government decisions. Examples include:

Curriculum:

- inclusion of human sexuality topics in health programs
- emphasis on Canadian content in many subject areas
- teaching French as a core subject at the elementary level
- introduction of guidance in the curriculum
- inclusion of drug education programs in the curriculum
- preparation of media-awareness curriculum for teachers
- anti-bullying programs in all schools
- Junior Kindergarten programs in all school boards
- alternative education programs for suspended and expelled students

Health and Safety:

- improved safety standards for school bus construction
- improved traffic regulations when school buses are operating
- mandatory use of bicycle helmets for children and youth
- compulsory immunization for school-age children, and immunization for meningitis
- development of Young Worker Safety curriculum
- new reporting rules for teachers, and school boards for sexual abuse cases
- absence check programs in all elementary schools
- zero tolerance towards smoking in the buildings and on the property of all public schools

Teaching Profession:

- increased academic requirements for admission to teacher training programs
- province-wide teacher performance appraisal system
- recognizing co-instructional activities as a work-load issue
- setting up a College of Teachers
- first aid and CPR training for teachers and other school personnel

Parents and Families:

- access by parents to their children's Ontario Student Record (OSR)
- student records after graduation contain only name, address, and scholastic evaluations
- extension of Family Allowance and OHIP coverage for dependent students over 16
- accident insurance for students
- pensions for persons over 16 with permanent physical or mental disabilities

Other:

- elimination of tax credits for private schooling
- increased capital expenditures for new schools and renovations
- opening of schools on November 11
- mandating lower pupil-teacher ratios for the primary grades
- support for a public education channel on television
- development of discipline policies by school boards