

BACKGROUNDER

Plan to Catch Up

July 25, 2022

[Education](#)

Ontario has launched its *Plan to Catch Up*, including several initiatives supported by historic funding. For the 2022-23 school year, the province will continue to support the learning recovery journey of all students, including those disproportionately affected by learning disruptions. The province's *Plan to Catch Up* is focused on providing students the best learning experience possible, so that they can get back on track, and learn the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow.

Back to Normal: Safely, On-Time with an Enriching, Complete School Experience

- Opening schools for the 2022-23 school year on-time and keeping schools safe and open.
- Maintaining a regular school year with in-person learning available from start to finish, subject to advice from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, to provide students with every opportunity to re-engage in their learning, their extracurricular activities including sports, and with their communities.
- Supporting an enriching school experience that enables academic success and lets students take advantage of the activities and programs that enhance classroom learning and build social and life skills.
- Having the appropriate and up to date health and safety measures in place, such as ventilation improvements, and safe practices, such as frequent hand washing, enhanced cleaning protocols and screening policies supported by free rapid tests in alignment with provincial guidance.

Expanded Student Supports: Tutoring, Literacy, and Special Education

- Enhanced tutoring support programs focused on literacy and math, made possible by Ontario's landmark \$175 million investment.
- Long term reforms to the way reading is taught in school, with a focus on evidence-based approaches; supported by a \$25 million investment in evidence-based programs to support student achievement in literacy, as well as for professional assessments.
- Summer learning programs in reading and math.
- More than \$3.25 billion in Special Education Grant funding (an increase of \$93 million) for the 2022-23 school year to help prevent and remove barriers for students with disabilities/special education needs and ensure our most vulnerable have every opportunity to succeed with confidence.
- Specialized supports for students most at risk including students from racialized, Black, immigrant, and Indigenous communities.

Ontario's Modern Curriculum: Preparing Students for the Jobs of Tomorrow

- The revised career studies course includes personal financial management, budgeting, and financial planning tools, as well as providing opportunities for students to investigate careers in high growth industries.
- Overhauled the math curriculum, focused on foundational math skills, financial literacy, budgeting and coding in grades one to eight and a de-streamed grade nine math course, which includes real-life applications and skills to prepare students for future jobs. The previous math course had not been updated since 2005 – and did not include any reference to coding, AI, or technology embedded into the world today.
- Modernizing the new elementary science and technology curriculum, along with a new de-streamed grade nine science course to be implemented in the 2022-23 school year. This includes new learning in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills, engineering design, the skilled trades and emerging technologies. This ensures that students learn about STEM-related concepts and skills from kindergarten to grade 12, and increases opportunities for more experiential, hands-on learning.
- A revised grade 10 mandatory civics and citizenship course where students learn what it means to be a responsible, informed, and active citizen, both within the classroom and in the communities they belong to outside of school. The revised course provides opportunities to strengthen their civic literacy in the digital age, encourages civic duty, and strengthens learning on Canada's constitution, law, and values.

- Completing the de-streaming of all grade nine courses, to remove barriers for at-risk students and offer all grade nine subjects in one stream – with enhanced supports – so that all students can reach higher and achieve their full potential.

More Money to Build Schools and Improve Education

- Delivering record funding of over \$26.6 billion for the 2022-23 school year - the highest investment in public education in Ontario's history.
- Investing \$14 billion over 10 years to build state-of-the-art schools and classrooms and renew and repair existing schools, including \$2.1 billion for the 2022-23 school year.
- Allocating \$304 million of time-limited funding to support the hiring of up to 3,000 more front-line staff, including teachers and educational assistants.
- Ensuring that teachers are hired on their merit and qualification, so the best teachers are hired to lead instruction in Ontario schools.
- Planning to provide a fair deal for teachers and education workers, while ensuring kids are back in school on time in September and with a full school experience.

Mental Health: The Foundation for Student Success

- Ensuring that students have access to mental health supports where and when they need it.
- Allocating \$90 million for mental health initiatives and supports for students, a 420 per cent increase from 2017-18.
- Our government is launching consultations with mental health stakeholders, to explore more learning opportunities for both educators and students along with other key supports, and how to leverage the best available evidence on student mental health needs.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Launches its Plan to Catch Up](#)
- [Read Our Full Plan: Plan to Catch Up](#)
- [Ontario's Roadmap to Wellness](#)

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