

## SCHOOLS FLAWED FUNDING FORMULA

### KEY ISSUES

The flawed education funding formula introduced by the Harris Conservatives in 1998 continues to wreak havoc on the JK-grade 12 school system. The McGuinty Liberals have broken a promise to fix the funding formula, leaving school boards with serious shortfalls when it comes to school operations and support staff. The results:

- This year, 60% of school boards will make staff cuts, fuelling a job crisis in Ontario in many communities that are already reeling from cuts to the manufacturing sector.
- Job cuts to custodial/maintenance workers and secretarial positions mean that boards are compromising cleanliness and safety in order to meet the province's requirements for balanced budgets.
- Thousands of Educational Assistant (EA) jobs are being cut or having hours cut back, affecting our most vulnerable special needs children. Most EAs work 6-hour days, not enough time to look after special needs students and do the general supervision they are increasingly being asked to do.
- Because of the faulty funding formula, many schools are being allowed to deteriorate to the point where it is cheaper to close than repair them. Hundreds of rural, northern and inner-city schools are slated to close within the next couple of years.

### THE PARTIES REPORT CARD

#### Conservatives

- Created a funding formula that was designed to promote cuts to the education system.
- Introduced a tax-credit for private schooling; now they want to allow faith-based schools to receive government funding, which will strip funds away from the current underfunded system.

#### Liberals

- Promised to fix the funding formula; addressed teacher issues, but ignored support staff and school operations.
- Are sending in supervisors to balance board budgets when local trustees refuse to make cuts that will hurt students and their quality of education.

#### NDP

- Committed to publicly funded and delivered education; would ban fundraising for school essentials so that every school has a fair opportunity to provide excellent schools and education.
- Would completely overhaul the unfair funding formula and hold annual hearings to ensure that it is working properly for students.
- Would end unfair school board cuts—including school closures—until the funding formula is fixed.

### CUPE ONTARIO'S POSITION ....

**Our choice: Only the NDP is committed to fixing the funding formula and restoring funding levels needed to ensure that children succeed.**