

Speaking notes regarding hybrid learning

May 18, 2021



- Hybrid learning means that one educator is responsible for simultaneously teaching students who are learning at school and those who are learning from home. This means a single teacher could be teaching 15 students in person at the same time they are supposed to be supporting 12 students who are learning remotely.
- Under this model, teachers provide two completely different types of instruction – face-to-face learning to students in classrooms and online learning to students at home – at the same time, and without the resources to do so effectively.
- This model is particularly challenging when it comes to supporting students with special education needs. Students learning in person and those learning online would be under-supported.
- Every student deserves educators’ full attention. What they need is more focused attention and support, not less.
- It is not possible for educators to provide students with the support they need in two completely different formats at the same time. That means the quality of learning for our youngest students is being eroded.
- The hybrid learning model:
 - disproportionately impacts students with special education needs and other students who are marginalized;
 - compounds inequities that already exist for Black, Indigenous and other racialized students;
 - does not allow for equity of access to programming for students;
 - fails to protect the privacy of educators and the students in their care;
 - creates workload, instructional and supervisory obligations for educators that are unreasonable and could put students at risk; and
 - requires more digital devices (e.g. laptops, webcams) than educators have in their classrooms.
- Boards need to ensure high-quality education for all students, and they must make decisions that are rooted in the success and well-being of every child.
- To protect and deliver high-quality public education, school boards must keep hybrid learning out of Ontario’s classrooms.
- Because the Ford government is not keeping elementary schools safe by funding smaller class sizes, some school boards are being forced to cut costs by implementing the hybrid model.
- The government has created this challenge for boards by mandating virtual learning for the next school year and not providing adequate funding (i.e., per student funding is lower for 2021-2022 than it was in 2020-2021). This has resulted in added pressures for school boards.
- Inadequate funding is a primary reason school boards are resorting to elementary hybrid learning models comprised of simultaneous face-to-face and remote instruction, since fewer teachers and educators are required to provide hybrid instruction in a simultaneous format.
- If some school boards are able to deliver the mandatory virtual learning option without implementing the hybrid model, while we remain impacted by this pandemic, all boards should be able to do so.
- The insistence of this government to establish permanent online learning adds additional pressures to school boards and results in the creation of a two-tier public education system.