

"The school needs to be in context... We don't rank schools"

- Education Minister, Kathleen Wynne in response to the annual Fraser Institute ranking of schools, Toronto Sun, April 9, 2009

The Ministry of Education's School Information Finder website provides a profile of every public school in the province. These profiles are based solely on "student achievement" as reported by EQAO scores. They also include demographic information on the catchment area of each school, including:

- **percentage of students who live in lower-income households**
- **percentage of students whose parents have some university education**
- **percentage of students who receive special education services**
- **percentage of students identified as gifted**
- **percentage of students whose first language is not English/French**
- **percentage of students who are new to Canada from non-English/non-French speaking country**

The SIF provides data to the public, but it lacks appropriate context ... and how does this not rank schools?

The following is a list of organizations that signed an open letter to the Minister of Education, in opposition to the SIF website:

- Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
- Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
- Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
- Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- Ontario Association of Deans of Education (OADE)
- Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)
- Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA)
- Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations (OFHSA)
- Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)
- Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA)
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
- Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA)
- Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF)
- People for Education (P4E)
- Parents partenaires en éducation (PPE)

Brochure produced by:

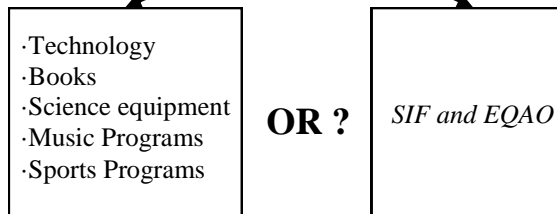


Some important information about
The Ontario
Ministry of
Education
School
Information
Finder
(SIF)

WHAT'S WRONG WITH KNOWING MORE ABOUT YOUR KIDS' SCHOOL?

- *The SIF reduces your child to a single test score.* Your child's teacher, the report card, school websites, etc. are more authentic resources than EQAO in giving you hands-on information about your child and your child's school
- *The SIF paints neighbourhoods with an ethnic/socioeconomic brush.* Children are children. Providing background information of this nature is inconsistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code
- *The SIF supports one-sided political agendas and not education.* Information such as primary class size caps of 20 does not tell the whole story, and ignores the growing number of combined grade classrooms and junior/intermediate/senior classes with 30+ students
- *The SIF uses EQAO data to tell an incomplete story.* ELL and students with special needs are entitled to a range of accommodations in how they are evaluated, under the Ontario Education Act. Accommodations that they are entitled to by law are not allowed in EQAO testing
- *The SIF penalizes schools for being small.* Select students exempted from the test and students who are absent are given a mark of *zero* by EQAO. The smaller the school, the higher the impact on their data.

How is Public Money Better Spent?



Investment in public education is the best way to prepare for a future in a knowledge-based economy.

The SIF is an inappropriate and unwise use of public money!



SIF makes it easy for organizations like the Fraser Institute and the C.D. Howe Institute to attack public education to promote their own political agenda.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contact your local MPP
(<http://www.ontla.on.ca> – click on Members and Current MPPs)

Contact the Minister of Education, Leona Dombrowsky, at
ldombrowsky.mpp@liberal.ola.org