

## PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION

# EDUCATION MATTERS IN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

*People for Education's election questions go out across the province*

For immediate release

Toronto (September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011) – People for Education today issued a list of ten questions for candidates in the provincial election.

The questions and an election tip sheet will be distributed to individual school councils, school board Parent Involvement Committees and 10,000 people across the province. The election tip sheet reminds parents and others that provincial politicians control funding for education and overall decisions about education policy that affect everything from class size to the state of school libraries, from curriculum to office staff.

“Ontario has a wonderful public education system,” says Annie Kidder, Executive Director of People for Education. “But there is always room for improvement. Voters want and need concrete information from politicians about their party’s plans for education. We’re looking for vision, for clearer definitions of success and for guarantees that all kids will have access to a rich broadly based education.”

### People for Education’s top ten education questions for politicians

1. Are there programs and resources that you think should be available in all schools? What will your party do to ensure that they are available?
2. In Ontario we measure the success of the education system by looking at high school graduation rates and test scores in reading, writing and math. Do you think there are other things we should be measuring? If yes, what are they?
3. Some people think our schools don’t have enough funding – what do you think? Would you consider corporate partnerships and funding from the private sector to support education?
4. What place do you think the arts should have in our schools?
5. One out of four Ontario children is considered obese. What role do you think schools should play in changing that?
6. Last year some school boards were talking about closing their school libraries, or turning them into computer labs. Do you think every school should have a library, and if so, how should they be staffed?
7. Ontario has fewer students every year, which makes it hard to keep all of our schools open. What will your party do to ensure that we don’t have to close smaller schools?
8. In Ontario we test every student in grades 3, 6 and 9 in reading, writing and math. What is your party’s position on this type of testing?
9. Some schools raise as much as \$275,000 through fundraising; others raise \$0. Do you think there should be any limits on fundraising? If parents are allowed to raise money for capital projects such as a new gym or auditorium, how will your party ensure that we don’t create a wide gap between “have” and “have not” schools?
10. Soon all-day kindergarten will be available for all of Ontario’s 4- and 5-year-olds. But many parents want affordable early childhood education and care that extends beyond kindergarten. How will your party provide a system that includes all-day kindergarten; child care for children from 0-5 years old; and before- and after-school, summer and holiday programs for children from 4 to 12?

The full tip sheet is available on People for Education’s website at [www.peopleforeducation.com](http://www.peopleforeducation.com)

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