



The Ontario Music Educators' Association

Please take part in the **Education in Ontario Consultation**.

The Government of Ontario has invited “parents, students, educators and interested individuals or organizations – to provide feedback on the education system in Ontario.”

The Ontario Music Educators' Association invites teachers, students, and parents to take part in this consultation, emphasizing the importance of music education in their lives.

Music itself is of great value. It is an artform that helps make us better people. It also supports the development of **21st Century skills** that are vital to the development of life and employment skills. Creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking are clearly supported by music education.

There are **several concerns** you might wish to keep in mind when completing your response:

- **Fewer than 50%** of Ontario students have access to a music teacher during their school day, far less than 25 years ago.
- In rural, northern, and economically challenged communities, **fewer than one child in 5** will see a music teacher during their entire elementary career.
- In both elementary and increasingly in secondary schools, **teachers with no specific qualifications in music** are asked to teach music.
- Legislation regarding hiring practices (Regulation 274) makes it very **difficult to hire qualified music teachers** for open positions.
- **Students from wealthy communities and districts** are more than twice as likely to have a music teacher when compared to communities in average or below average income areas. This is a serious equity issue.

For further advocacy information, visit the [OMEA Advocacy Page](#).

Deadline December 15, 2018

Please click on the picture/link below to take part in the consultation. **Your voice is important.**



<https://registration.fortheparents.ca/>