

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

315 Front Street West  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

315, rue Front Ouest  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8



April 13, 2026

Mr. Joseph Fiorino  
Council Chair  
Ontario College of Teachers  
101 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 0A1

Ms. Linda Lacroix  
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer  
Ontario College of Teachers  
101 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 0A1

Dear Mr. Fiorino and Ms. Lacroix,

Ontario's students deserve excellent instruction every day. High quality teaching is one of the most important factors in student success and in preparing young people for their futures. As classrooms continue to change, it is essential that teacher preparation is strong, efficient, and focused on real classroom experience.

Last year, I made it clear that prospective teachers must be well-prepared for the realities of the classroom before they begin teaching full-time. That is why I am writing to you today as Minister of Education, pursuant to my authority under clause 12(1)(c) of the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* (Act), to require changes to teacher education programs that better balance academic learning with high-quality hands-on classroom experience, so new teachers are ready to enter the profession.

Specifically, I am requiring the College to make amendments to **O. Reg. 347/02 Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs** and **O. Reg. 176/10 Teachers' Qualifications** to change the requirements for the accreditation of teacher education programs and for obtaining teachers' qualifications.

The amendments to O. Reg. 347/02 must include the requirements set out below. To facilitate compliance with this direction, the Ministry will be preparing draft regulations for your consideration. I welcome feedback on the proposed drafts, particularly any changes needed to address operational impediments to their implementation.

These regulatory amendments would provide for robust classroom teaching experiences supported by both faculty of education and school board resources, including increased use of the existing transitional certificate.

The required amendments to O. Reg. 176/10 will be consequential in nature, and I will share direction on the required changes to that regulation at a later date.

### **Required Regulatory Amendments**

- Amend O. Reg. 347/02 to change the requirements for accreditation of a program of professional education as follows:
  - Change the number of academic semesters from four to three for all programs of professional education, including the days of practical experience;
  - Require academic semesters for consecutive programs to run successively such that the full program of professional education may be completed within 12 months;
  - Change the *minimum* number of days of practical experience (details to follow at a later date); and
  - Include transitional provisions to ensure a seamless transition to these new accreditation requirements

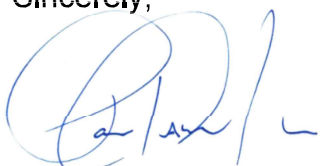
### **Timelines for Council to Make Regulatory Amendments (subject to Minister review and LGIC Approval)**

With the introduction of the *Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026*, proposed amendments to the Act would clarify the Council's authority to make the regulatory amendments noted above, and I am requesting the Council to make the regulatory amendments (subject to the Bill passing and receiving Royal Assent). Thereafter, in accordance with section 12(2) of the Act, I require Council to make amendments to both O. Reg. 347/02 and O. Reg. 176/10 no later than **June 11, 2026**. Ministry staff are available to begin working on this important file immediately, including sharing draft regulations for consideration.

I look forward to completing this important work, on this timeline, together with you. If we are unable to do so, it would be my intention to use the powers granted under section 12(3) of the Act to ensure that this initiative moves forward aligned to the commitments our government has made to Faculties of Education, to aspiring teachers and to the public at large.

I appreciate the College's ongoing commitment to strengthening the teaching profession in Ontario and look forward to our continued collaboration as we move ahead with developing an efficient, modernized, and student focused model of teacher preparation in Ontario.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Paul Calandra  
Minister of Education



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Ontario's Teaching Regulator  
L'organisme de réglementation  
de l'enseignement en Ontario

April 14, 2026

The Honourable Paul Calandra  
Minister of Education  
438 University Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Calandra,

The Ontario College of Teachers confirms receipt of your letter dated April 13, 2026 and your request to amend regulations to change the requirements for the accreditation of teacher education programs and for obtaining teachers' qualifications.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate immediately with our Ministry of Education colleagues to review proposed regulations to ensure effective implementation. Our Council is prepared to work to your stated timelines and upon Royal Assent, exercise their legislated authority to make regulatory amendments.

We look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goal of strengthening the teaching profession for the benefit of Ontario's students.

Sincerely,

Joseph Fiorino, JD, LLM  
Chair of Council

Linda Lacroix, OCT/EAO  
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer