



AECEO Statement on *Bill 33: Supporting Children and Students Act*

September 8th, 2025

About the AECEO

The Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario is the professional association for registered early childhood educators (RECEs) in Ontario. Our mission is to advocate for respect, recognition, and appropriate wages and working conditions for all RECEs and a high quality, publicly funded early childhood education and child care system. Our members work throughout Ontario in programs for young children and their families, including regulated home and centre-based child care, full-day kindergarten, family resource programs, and support services for children with disabilities, among others. The following statement has been written by the AECEO in collaboration with our CARE Collectives: the Community of Black Early Childhood Educators (CoBECs), the Student Early Childhood Educators of Ontario (SECEO), and the ECE Faculty Connect.

Introduction and Context

[Bill 33: Supporting Children and Students Act](#) (referred to throughout as Bill 33) was passed on [May 29, 2025](#), and ordered for second reading. The second reading debate commenced on [June 5, 2025](#), and was adjourned. This proposed legislation, if successfully enacted, would significantly change the [Education Act](#), the [Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act](#), and the [Legislation Act](#), among others. This legislation would apply to all of Ontario and impact the public education system, colleges, universities, and children's aid societies, including pre-service ECEs and

3003 Danforth Ave., P.O. Box 93618, Toronto, ON M4C 5R4
Telephone: 416-487-3157, Ontario Toll Free: 1-866-932-3236
Email: info@aeceo.ca Website: www.aeceo.ca



educators in the school board. Bill 33 is being presented as a mechanism to improve transparency, accountability, and protecting public interest.

However, communities and advocates have raised concerns over the potential for an inequitable balance between oversight and autonomy for individual institutions to respond to their communities' needs. Together with the Community of Black ECEs, the Student Early Childhood Educators of Ontario, and the ECE Faculty Connect (AECEO CARE Collectives), we have analyzed the impacts of Bill 33 on ECEs and child care workers, and children and families. Our brief summary below presents why we think Bill 33 is a matter of interest to our community, and suggests some actions you can take to share your perspective.

Impact on Schools

Bill 33 proposes several amendments to the *Education Act* that we think are relevant for our members and community. If passed, Section 174 (1) of the *Education Act* would state, "Before a board may name a new school or change the name of an existing school, the board shall apply to the Minister, in the form required by the Minister, for approval of the name." This means that a school's name change would have to be approved by the Minister of Education. We believe that school boards should have the ability to self determine when it comes to board matters and name changes. School boards exist within dynamic social, cultural, and historical contexts. Decisions often reflect reconciliation efforts, commitments to equity, and meaningful connections with local communities. School boards, elected trustees, and communities are best positioned to conduct such matters with nuance on behalf of school boards and the communities they represent.

3003 Danforth Ave., P.O. Box 93618, Toronto, ON M4C 5R4
Telephone: 416-487-3157, Ontario Toll Free: 1-866-932-3236
Email: info@aeceo.ca Website: www.aeceo.ca



Bill 33, if passed, would repeal Sections 230-230.3 and would include, “The Minister may direct an investigation of a board’s affairs if the Minister has concerns about a matter of public interest”. This means that the Minister of Education would be able to give direction to a school board to address a matter of public interest. According to Bill 33, “matters of public interest” are defined as, “Whether boards, board members and directors of education are carrying out their duties under this Act in an appropriate manner” and “Any other matter that may be prescribed”. We believe that school boards are equipped to address matters that pertain to their schools and can accurately respond to matters as they arise. School boards should be trusted to conduct matters according to their communities’ needs.

Further, Bill 33 proposes that, subsections 11.1 (2) to (5) of the *Education Act* would be repealed and amended with the following, “(1) Every board shall work with its local police services to, in the prescribed circumstances, (a) provide the local police services with access to school premises; (b) permit the local police services to participate in school programs; and (c) implement school resource officer programs, where such programs are available”. Currently, subsection 11.1 (2) states, “Before the Lieutenant Governor in Council makes a regulation under subsection (1), the Minister shall consult with, (a) the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association; (b) the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association; (c) l’Association des conseillères et des conseillers des écoles publiques de l’Ontario; (d) l’Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques; and (e) any other persons and entities that, in the Minister’s opinion, have an interest in the proposed regulation”. Subsection 11.1 (5) states, “Subsections (2), (3) and (4) do not apply if the regulation, in the Minister’s opinion, (a) is needed to deal with

an urgent situation; (b) is needed only to clarify the intent or operation of this Act or the regulations; or (c) is of a minor or technical nature”. This means that school boards would be required to work with police. When police programs are placed in schools, this not only impacts Kindergarten and School Age programs, but also school based child care and EarlyON programs, who get no say on police presence in their environment. We know that many ECEs, children, families, and communities, especially Black, Indigenous, racialized, and marginalized people experience violence and systemic oppression from police. In 2017, after many years of advocacy, trustees voted to [remove police officers from Toronto District School Board](#) schools, with many trustees across the province following suit and ending School Resource Officer (SRO) programs in their schools. The SRO program was ended in part due to [2017 research](#) that found that police officers engaged in racial profiling and may over-scrutinize or inappropriately question students when allowed into school. The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) [2021 report](#) further emphasized that, “racialized students are more likely to be disciplined, suspended and arrested in school when police are present, and do not think police presence contributes to their sense of safety and security.” More information about the dangers of allowing police into schools can be found in the OHRC [2025 submission](#) which states, “By mandating the implementation of SRO programs, *Bill 33* disempowers school boards and prevents them from fulfilling their responsibilities to protect the rights of all students under the Ontario *Human Rights Code*”. The requirement to invite and incorporate police into schools is not only a violent decision, but one that puts educators, students and their families at risk of harm, and bypasses their human rights.



Impact on Universities and Colleges

Bill 33 proposes amendments to the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act* that could impact our members and community. If passed, the following would be added, “Every college or university referred to in subsection (1) shall, (a) ensure that when assessing applicants for the purposes of admission into a program of study, assessment is based on the merit of the individual applicant; and (b) publish, in a manner accessible to the public, the criteria and process to be used by the college or university in assessing applicants for admission into each program of study”. Currently, admissions are assessed based on an applicant's overall academic record and certain post-secondary programs will also have additional, program-specific, admissions requirements. This change to University and College admissions is concerning, as this potential new criteria could negatively impact student representation depending on how this criteria was developed, what kind of “merit” is prioritized, and how it is taken up in practice. Importantly, merit is not a neutral concept and not universally defined. This approach could prioritize eurowestern knowledge, colonial traditions, and whiteness. There is concern that this could be used as a tactic to gatekeep already underrepresented, racialized, and marginalized people from university and college admission, rather than provide equity in admission processes and procedures.

If passed, Bill 33 would amend the *Legislation Act* in ways that are relevant to our members and community. If passed, the *Legislation Act* would be amended to add, “The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations governing any fees that a college of applied arts and technology or publicly-assisted university charges to students or requires students to pay”. Currently student unions are responsible for collecting and distributing these fees. We believe that student unions should continue to collect and



distribute ancillary fees in order to ensure that fees are being used in the best interest of students. Student representation on campus is important in reflecting the values, priorities, and needs of students in university and college settings.

What can we do?

The AECEO, the CoBECES, SECEO, and ECE Faculty Connect will continue to monitor Bill 33's progress through the legislative process for any updates or amendments and will share any significant updates as they arise. In the meantime, we encourage concerned community members to take action and use your voice to effect change:

1. Endorse this [statement](#) to protect Black, Indigenous, racialized, and marginalized students and their families.
2. [Find and contact your MPP](#) and tell them that you oppose the bill and why.
3. [Join a CARE Collective](#) to continue monitoring Bill 33 and take part in future AECEO actions.