

Ontario College of Teachers: Setting the Standard for Great Teaching



“Teaching is society’s noblest profession. Professionalism in teaching is our greatest priority. What’s good for teachers is good for all Ontarians.”

Michael Salvatori, OCT
CEO and Registrar, Ontario College of Teachers



There’s no limiting what students can achieve when we equip our teachers to excel. The Ontario College of Teachers regulates teaching in Ontario by licensing, setting high professional and ethical standards, and approving teacher education programs.

The College serves and protects the public’s interest in education by:

- certifying teachers to work in Ontario publicly funded schools and school systems
- approving the programs and courses that prepare teachers to teach
- disciplining those who fail to uphold the high standards for Ontario teachers.

A 37-member Council (23 elected and 14 appointed by the province) governs the College by developing and approving policies that regulate the teaching profession.

Governing in the public interest

At the root of their practice, teachers are governed by a set of standards, which guides the behaviour expected of them as professionals.

The *Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession* represent a vision of professional practice in which the qualities of care, respect, trust, and integrity are fundamental.

The *Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession* describes the essential knowledge, skills and values in Ontario’s teaching profession. This includes a commitment to students and student learning, leadership in learning communities, ongoing professional learning, and professional knowledge and practice.

Ontario
College of
Teachers
Ordre des
enseignantes et
des enseignants
de l’Ontario

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Quick Facts

- opened in 1997
- 239,000 members
- certified about 9,800 new teachers in 2014
- self-regulation recognizes the maturity of the profession and teachers' special skills, knowledge and experience

Licensing

Only qualified teaching professionals who have been certified by the Ontario College of Teachers can use the professional designation OCT – Ontario Certified Teacher – next to their name. The College's ability to set the requirements for certifying teachers ensures Ontarians that children and youth are taught by highly qualified people with the necessary knowledge and skills to help students learn and achieve.

Accreditation

The College accredits full- and part-time teacher education programs in university faculties of education in Ontario. The College also reviews and approves hundreds of Additional Qualification courses to help teachers to remain current and relevant throughout their careers.

Discipline

The College has a duty to the public to investigate and resolve complaints about College members who may be unfit, unprepared to teach or who have breached Ontario's expectations for professional conduct.

Parents must have confidence that classrooms are safe and that the teaching profession deals seriously with members found guilty of professional misconduct. Likewise, members accused of professional misconduct have a right to procedural fairness.

By proportion, complaints against teachers are rare. Of the College's 239,000 members, about 100 face a public hearing in any given year. Penalties for professional misconduct range from reprimands, direction to receive counselling or take courses, to losing one's licence to teach.



Accountable to You

Operating in an open and transparent manner helps to build public trust.

Partners in professionalism.

The members of College Council swear an oath or attestation to serve and protect the public interest. A Public Interest Committee, made up of three people appointed by the province, also provides advice to Council with respect to its public interest mandate.

Find a Teacher.

The College keeps a public register of all certified members. Visit Find a Teacher on our website at oct.ca to see the status of each member, their qualifications to teach, when were certified and any conditions or disciplinary notations on their certificate.

Decisions available.

The College conducts public hearings for members facing allegations of professional misconduct. Hearing notices and full decisions from the hearings are available at oct.ca.

Specific guidance.

As the profession's regulator, the College has authority to issue professional advice to its members. Topics have ranged from the appropriate use of social and electronic media to teachers' duty to report when they suspect that a child may be the victim of abuse or neglect.

Open invitations.

You are welcome to attend the College's quarterly Council meetings, its annual meeting, and most Discipline Committee hearings. Follow the business of Council meetings by checking the minutes on our website.

Always consulting.

The College takes great pride and effort to consult broadly within the education sector about proposed policy or regulatory changes. Subscribe to our public e-newsletter, *The Standard*, and watch for opportunities to participate.

Learn more.

Visit oct.ca to see our annual reports, studies, advice to members and more.

