

# Petition to Fund Our Schools

To Leona Dombrowsky (Minister of Education) and Hamilton-Wentworth MPPs.

We sign below with grave concern over the state of our public secondary schools in Hamilton-Wentworth.

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Accommodation Review and Consolidation (ARC) Committees have received recommendations from Board staff to close five secondary schools in 2013, with a fifth to close soon after.

The secondary schools recommended for closure are Mountain (Vocational) and Sherwood in the Hamilton Mountain riding, Parkside in Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale, Parkview (Vocational) in Hamilton Centre, and Delta in Hamilton East-Stoney Creek. The proposed fifth school would be Barton, also Hamilton Mountain. In addition to these ridings, the trickle-down effect of these closures will also cause groups of itinerant students in schools stretching across the aforementioned ridings and Niagara West-Glanbrook for several years.

With plans to subsequently build or expand existing sites post-closures, some students could be in three different home schools over their four years of high school. Such a plan is not best for the students, families or communities involved. For all of the other challenges that the school district of Hamilton-Wentworth faces with regards to job loss and child poverty, please help in trying to take a positive pre-emptive step for our students, families and communities.

**We, the undersigned, would ask you to grant the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board funding for new schools and school expansions to begin construction *upon announcement* of closures and *not after the closures themselves*.** Such permission would allow school communities to remain together and relocate *en masse*, once, instead of piecemeal over several years.

Name (Print)	Address	Signature

Please send or drop off all copies of the petition to:

**OSSTF District 21  
1423 Upper Ottawa Street, Unit 2,  
Hamilton, ON L8W3J6**

We will forward copies to the Minister and all Hamilton-Wentworth area MPPs.