

BILL WALKER, MPP

BRUCE - GREY - OWEN SOUND



PETITION: To Place a Moratorium on School Closures

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO:

Whereas schools play an integral role by attracting new families to communities; and

Whereas one in eight Ontario schools is now at risk of closure under the Ministry of Education’s new Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG); and

Whereas the new review process has removed community impact consideration and value of a school to the local economy; and

Whereas the current funding formula disadvantages rural and northern schools in their ability to provide equal and quality education within their communities; and

Whereas school closures have a significant negative impact on families and their children, resulting in inequitable access to extracurricular activities and other essential school involvement, and after-school work opportunities; and

Whereas school closures have a devastating impact on the growth and overall viability of rural communities across Ontario, in particular self-sustaining agricultural communities;

We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows: To place a moratorium on all school closures across Ontario and to suspend all pupil accommodation reviews until the community impact component has been reinstated into the PARG and the school funding formula has been fixed to better accommodate all schools’ needs.

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

Please return (do not fax) the **original** signed petitions (no copies) to:
Bill Walker, MPP | 920 1ST Avenue West, Suite 100 | Owen Sound, ON N4K 4K5 | 519-371-2421