

KNOW MORE

...about changes to e-learning

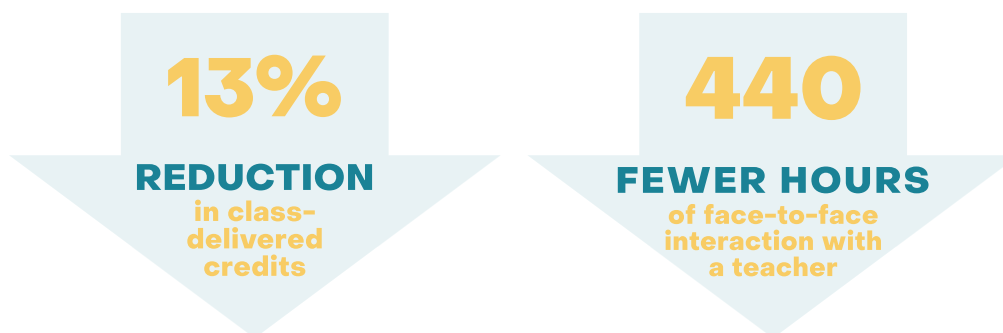
The Ford government announced that, starting in 2020-21, all high school students will be required to take four mandatory e-learning courses. The government claims this will help students to “embrace technology” and will improve student achievement.

But what does the research say?

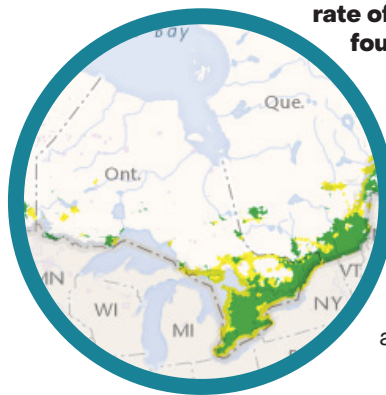
In a comprehensive study of e-learning in Ontario, Beyhan Farhadi found:

- E-learning is **not** a replacement for classroom instruction
- Only a minority of students succeed using this platform
- Vulnerable and at-risk students are especially disadvantaged
- E-learning is more about cutting costs than improving student learning

The move toward mandatory e-learning will have serious consequences for students, teachers, and our publicly funded education system.



The relationship between teachers and students is the most important element of quality education. Courses delivered in a classroom allow teachers to better identify student needs, adapt their teaching strategies, and integrate values such as community-building. With a student-to-teacher ratio of 35:1, hundreds of teaching positions will be lost – this will hinder the ability for teachers to connect with and provide individualized attention to students. **Research shows that a higher rate of students do not complete e-learning courses, and there are well-founded concerns that mandatory e-learning will hurt graduation rates.**



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There are also questions as to how e-learning will be implemented and administered, and how the government will ensure equitable access to technology for all students, regardless of where they live.

While technology can enhance students' learning experience, implementing a blanket policy designed to cut costs will not improve Ontario's system of publicly funded education. Parents, educators, and research experts agree that mandatory e-learning is not appropriate for all students. The government should know more.

Go to **KnowMore.ca** to send a message to your MPP and tell them to stop the cuts to publicly funded education.