

What is the OSSTF Educational Services Committee?



District Educational Services Committee (ESC)

The mission of the Educational Services Committee is to foster and promote the professional growth of OSSTF members in order to enhance the quality of education and teaching expertise by providing support, direction, and professional development opportunities to members.

The District ESC is made up of representatives from each Branch and Bargaining Unit. Meetings occur monthly throughout the school year. Specific duties of the local committee are outlined in the District Constitution, Bylaw 11, Section 4.3.

The major roles of the committee are:

1. Planning professional development activities: The committee has polled members, formally and informally, to determine what type of professional development is sought by members. With this input, committee members organize PD events. In the past, various activities that have been planned or considered are:

- Full-day workshops during the school day (on days other than PA days) – see list below of provincial workshops offered by OSSTF;
- After school workshops and guest speakers;
- Short workshops offered on PA days, sometimes for a Board-wide PD day or for a specific worksite.

The following workshops, copyrighted by OSSTF, are currently available to Districts by request:

- Addressing Anti-Black Racism – 3 part series
- Classroom Management for Teachers/OTs
- Classroom Management for Early Years
- Cultivating Resilience
- Cyberbullying
- Equity in Practice
- Focus on Poverty: Awareness to Action
- Managing Conflict
- Mental Health
- Racial Justice
- The Science of Learning

2. Supporting professional development opportunities through grants: The committee encourages members to direct their own professional development and helps to support it through grants provided by the committee. Guidelines for eligibility and the process for applying for grants has been set by the committee which adjudicates requests and decides on how the committee funds will be dispersed. The guidelines and application are available on the OSSTF webpage: osstf27.org/educational-services.

The work of the local committee complements the work of the provincial committee (see next page).

Opportunities for committee Chair/members

There are regional and provincial events that they may take part in:

Regional Meetings – Limestone District 27 is in Region 5 which normally holds its regional meetings in Ottawa bi-annually in the fall in the years when there is not a conference.

Provincial Conference – This is held bi-annually and is an opportunity for Educational Services Officers (Chairs of local committees) to come together for training and making connections.

Provincial Educational Services Committee

The provincial Educational Services Committee is made up of 25 members from across the province. Applications to serve on the Provincial ESC are due on March 1 each year. Ask the committee chair or someone in the District Office about the application process.

Committee members do the following in their work on the provincial ESC:

- provide input re professional development and training issues
- monitor and research educational issues, priorities, and pedagogy
- review applications and make recommendations re scholarships and awards
- review issues re curriculum and assessment
- develop resources for members
- organize and stage the Educational Services Officers' regional training sessions
- design and organize the Educational Services Officers' conference.

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