

ceived less than what they are entitled to for years. The pandemic just emphasized the shortcomings within the educational system in Ontario.

S. Rangoussis, Scarborough

Re Parents fear pandemic will lead to more exclusion of special needs students, Aug. 26

After Toronto District School Board spokesperson Ryan Bird's disappointing emphasis on congregated sites to address the needs of special-education students (Ontario students with disabilities face more obstacles returning to class, advocates say, Aug. 22), we are pleased to see that TDSB superintendent of special education, Angela Nardi-Addesa, is instructing schools that pandemic protocols cannot be used as a reason to exclude students and that students unable to wear a mask or to properly physically distance will be accommodated.

More than half of TDSB's students and thousands of students all over the province with disabilities are not in special-education classrooms. These students will need to be accommodated in a way that does not force them to accept a congregated site or online learning as the only viable "safe" option for their return and participation.

Paula Boutis, Integration Action for Inclusion

There is one issue I have not heard about: replacement or supply teachers, who are called in when a teacher is absent.

Replacement teachers move from school to school as needed. Will a replacement teacher be assigned to one school or will they be allowed to move

made for those teachers who specialize in these subjects?

Gail Salem, Barrie

The premier has decided to send our children back to school. We should consider the full ramifications for such a move.

I question the ability to hire enough teachers and 500 qualified nurses within the usual time frame. Will these hirings deplete the number of nurses now in the hospital system?

I feel the premier should move slowly in returning our children to an environment where groups of more than 10 will occur normally and unmasked.

Why not implement more worksharing for parents, reduce class sizes for students by scheduling alternate full-week attendance and increase COVID-19 testing for every student in the province?

Let's prove this is not a political proposal, but a medical and scientific decision.

Gord Galloway, Toronto

Re Kindergarten during a pandemic 'just too stressful to contemplate', Aug. 22

This article presented a variety of problems, but few answers.

Why not allow early childhood educators (ECEs), who are specialists in dealing with children three to five years of age, to teach half of the smaller classes? The boards of education and the province could work toward smaller JK and SK class sizes by using ECEs, who are already co-teaching in the kindergarten classes.

All of us have had to make compromises due to COVID. This is one the

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