

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MANDATE

- To strengthen TESL Ontario's role as an advocate for language educators and the learners they serve by supporting strategic engagement with government, sector partners, and members.
- To provide insights and guidance that help position TESL Ontario as a collaborative and informed voice in policy discussions, funding decisions, and public conversations affecting language education in Ontario.
- To support TESL Ontario's advocacy efforts by contributing to awareness of emerging issues, fostering stakeholder relationships, and promoting the value of language education within the broader settlement and education systems.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The volunteer members of the committee are recruited from the TESL Ontario membership, with a focus on program administrators and sector leaders from across the language education landscape.

Membership will aim to include representation from key areas of the sector, including LINC programs, provincially funded ESL programs, colleges and universities, and the private language education sector (where appropriate).

In addition, one TESL Ontario Board member will serve as a liaison to the committee to support communication between the committee and the Board.

Interested individuals are required to submit an Expression of Interest form, along with a current résumé/CV, outlining their experience and interest in contributing to member representation and advocacy efforts.

CHAIRPERSON

The Chair is appointed by and reports to the Executive Director.

The Chair ensures the Committee carries out its mandate and supports productive discussion on sector-level issues. The Chair works with TESL Ontario staff to coordinate meetings, develop agendas, and ensure that committee insights are communicated effectively.

The Chair also ensures that the Committee reflects and represents the perspectives of TESL Ontario's membership in its advice and contributions to advocacy efforts.

TERM

The term of service on the Advocacy Advisory Committee is three years, with the option for reappointment for a further term.

MEETINGS

The committee will meet three to four times per year, or as needed in response to significant sector developments. Meetings may be held virtually or in person.

AGENDA

The Chair, in consultation with TESL Ontario staff, shall develop an agenda in advance of each meeting.

MINUTES

The Chair (or designate) shall ensure that minutes are recorded and submitted to the TESL Ontario office within two weeks of each meeting. TESL Ontario will maintain a record of all meeting minutes. Minutes will be circulated to committee members in advance of the next meeting.

OPERATING PARAMETERS

The committee will focus on sector-level trends, policy developments, and professional concerns affecting language educators in Ontario. While discussions may include issues relevant to specific parts of the sector (e.g., LINC, ESL, post-secondary, private language programs), the committee's work will prioritize initiatives that benefit the language education sector in Ontario as a whole.

The committee will serve in an advisory capacity to TESL Ontario, supporting the organization's advocacy and stakeholder engagement efforts by:

- Monitoring emerging issues, policy changes, and funding developments affecting language education
- Providing insights and feedback to inform TESL Ontario's advocacy priorities and messaging
- Contributing to the development and review of submissions, letters, and consultation responses, as appropriate
- Identifying opportunities to strengthen relationships with government, sector partners, and other stakeholders
- Supporting efforts to raise awareness of the role and value of language education in Ontario
- Sharing sector perspectives, including member experiences and emerging trends, to inform advocacy initiatives

The committee will not serve as a forum for union-related matters, labour grievances, or employer-specific issues, and will not function as a bargaining body or negotiate on behalf of members.

Last updated: April 27, 2026