

# Education Foundation of Ottawa

The Education Foundation of Ottawa, or the “EFO” as you may hear it called, is in place as the independent charitable arm of the OCDSB. Our mission is to reduce economic barriers impacting student learning and well-being through financial and in-kind support for students within the Board.

We do this work by providing access to food security inside and outside of school hours, and other basic needs, including clothing, school supplies and vision care. We also support OCDSB students with access to recreational and enrichment opportunities.

## Why This Work Matters

With the OCDSB serving 50% of Ottawa’s student population and over 77,000 students, you can imagine that many students are in need. One in five students in our city lives in poverty.

Students who were not in need before are finding themselves in need now, and those who were in need before are still in need now, and then some. We know many factors contribute to student success, not just the ones inside school hours. We consider what’s happening even before students step foot in the classroom.

Alongside seeing an increase in supporting families in unstable housing situations, schools are facing tighter budgets. The Education Foundation of Ottawa is increasingly being asked to assist schools in acquiring supplies previously provided to students. Everyone is feeling the financial impact of inflation.



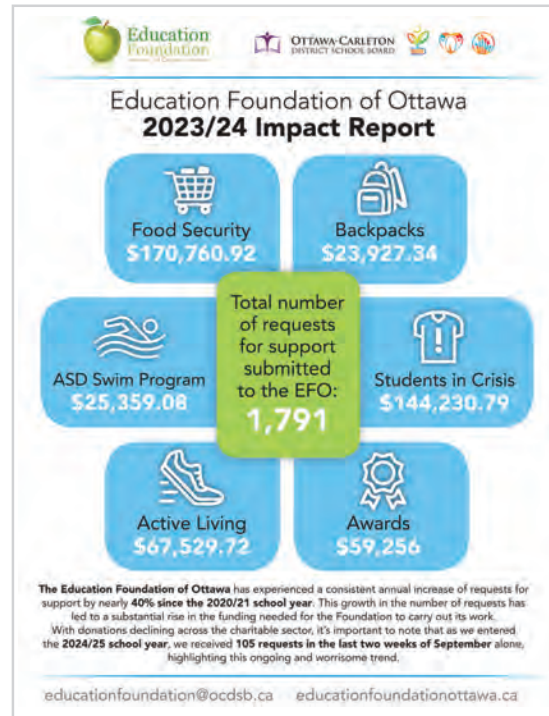
## 2023-2024 Highlights

We made a significant impact in **2023-2024**. Here are a few examples:

- The Education Foundation of Ottawa processed almost **1,800** requests for support in the total amount of almost **\$500,000**.
- Over **2,200** backpacks with school supplies were delivered to schools for students in need.
- We provided almost **\$60,000** in awards and bursaries to support post-secondary studies and school projects.
- Thanks to the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation®, the EFO was able to provide over **\$25,000** to students in Autism classes to learn important water safety skills.

- Our **Eyes to A's Vision Care Program** hosted several vision clinics in OCDSB schools to provide students with free vision screenings and glasses.
- Our 2024 Toonie Tuesday campaign raised **\$63,385.00!**

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## Looking Forward

In the 2024-25 school year, we want to increase the community's knowledge of the Education Foundation of Ottawa. Not only is it important for families to know how to access support, but it is crucial for our sustainability that individuals and groups know how to contribute to the work of the Foundation. We have many students in need, and due to the climate of our economy, more and more families are relying on the Education Foundation of Ottawa for help.

We also want to encourage the collective effort of OCDSB employees to enroll in the school board payroll deduction program as a way to extend our reach and anticipate our level of support. As Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."



**Education  
Foundation**  
of Ottawa

**Donate now** or learn more about the Education Foundation of Ottawa:

**[www.educationfoundationottawa.ca](http://www.educationfoundationottawa.ca)**