

**This document is a consolidation of the questions submitted during the Public Budget Information Session which took place on April 24, 2025. Questions are outlined in blue below and are followed by responses. School-specific questions should be directed to the respective school.**

**A recording of the Session and a copy of the presentation can be found on the DPCDSB website.**

*1. What is the Capital Budget? Does any of the capital funding lapse if not used? If so, how much?*

**Response**

The Capital Budget is funding from the Ministry of Education intended to cover the following capital requirements:

- Capital Priorities – approved new school builds, additions or renovations
- School Renewal and School Condition Projects – costs related to the repair needs to keep schools in a state of good repair
- Child Care Capital – approved new child care centres or additions to existing schools for child care purposes
- Temporary Accommodation – costs related to portable moves, leases, or purchases
- Land Priorities – approved land purchases, not eligible to collect Education Development Charges (EDC), to support future capital priorities

DPCDSB's current Capital Budget is \$86.7 million and includes costs associated with the following:

- St. Ruth Catholic Elementary School – new school (opening September 2025)
- St. Anne Catholic Elementary School – replacement build (opening September 2025)
- Several school renewal projects to address items such as the replacement or repair of HVAC, roofing, and asphalt.
- Costs related to the Board's portable needs

Overall, capital funding does not lapse except for school renewal funding which must be spent within three (3) years. Any remaining funding at the end of a particular project is typically returned to the Ministry of Education as the funding is only approved for that specific project.

*2. What steps does the Board take to ensure it is properly managed and remains accountable to stakeholders? Does the Board have an independent 3rd party audit or similar oversight?*

**Response**

DPCDSB has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that taxpayer's money is used in a responsible way. The Public Budget Information Session is an opportunity to provide transparency and accountability to our stakeholders around the challenges that DPCDSB is facing and to understand how education funding works.

DPCDSB continues to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Education under a Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP). The Ministry of Education is fully aware of the unique position that DPCDSB is in related to the fully employer-paid long-term disability (LTD) plan and continues to work with us toward a resolution. The Ministry of Education support is essential to finding a resolution as DPCDSB cannot solve our LTD plan locally.

DPCDSB is also subject to regular oversight through the Audit Committee, Internal and External Auditors and the Regional Internal Audit Team.

*3. Why has Enrolment dropped off? How much of the decrease in enrolment is primarily driven by JK/SK vs. other grades? Should DPCDSB allow other religious groups for elementary Enrolment?*

**Response**

During the COVID pandemic years DPCDSB experienced a significant decrease in enrolment. As an urban Board in the GTA area, Mississauga and Brampton can be an expensive area to live and with the increase in remote work opportunities for parents/guardians, families were moving outside of the GTA. Many Boards to the north and southwest have seen increasing enrolment, whereas a lot of the GTA boards like DPCDSB, Peel and the Toronto boards were experiencing a decrease in enrolment.

The rate of decline has significantly slowed down and next year DPCDSB is projecting a small increase. The huge outflux of families moving out of GTA appears to have also slowed down. Enrolment continues to decline in elementary, but it is increasing in secondary. Our planning department staff continue to analyze the reasons for the continued decrease in elementary, but in general the incoming cohorts of JK/SK are smaller than graduating Grade 8 classes. There is a provincial trend showing an overall decrease in the number of JK/SK age children coming into our schools and this has been shared with the Ministry of Education.

DPCDSB prepares and distributes information annually to promote registration at our elementary and secondary schools. Information is sent out to all families, shared with all parishes, placed on community signs and advertised on all DPCDSB social media platforms. DPCDSB also has a unique program through our parishes where information and documents are given to parents during preparations for Baptism. Elementary school children are admitted if they are baptized Roman Catholic or an Eastern Church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome, or if one of the child's Parent/Guardian is baptized.

*4. Why are new schools being built when we're having a hard time filling the existing schools?*

**Response**

DPCDSB covers an area of almost 2,700 square kilometers. Within that very large and diverse geographical region there are areas where the population is changing and there is excess capacity in our schools. But there are also areas where new housing developments and population growth are putting pressure on enrolment at schools, particularly in the north of the Board's jurisdiction. DPCDSB is building schools to fulfill the capacity needs in those specific areas. All new school builds require submission of a business case and are subject to Ministry of Education approval.

*5. Will per-pupil funding be shared for 2025-2026? What was the per pupil funding in 2024-2025?*

**Response**

Within the Core Education funding model, there are many individual components that are based on per pupil funding, and other funding calculations based on demographics, board-specific metrics and other factors. The average funding per student in 2024-2025 is projected to be \$14,061. Details of the calculations are published in the Technical Guide for School Boards and [A Guide to Core Education Funding: 2024-25 School Year](#).

The 2025/2026 funding has not been shared with school boards at this time.

*6. Can schools fundraise to cover some expenses? Is it possible to get donations for needed resources?*

**Response**

DPCDSB has a Board Policy on [Fundraising and Donations](#) and an associated General Administrative Procedure (GAP). Fundraising initiatives should be complementary to, and not a replacement for funding from the Ministry of Education.

DPCDSB recognizes the contributions of Catholic School Councils, parents/guardians and staff/students to fundraising initiatives to support school and student needs. Fundraising is informed and guided by the DPCDSB mission and vision and Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and must comply with municipal, provincial and federal legislation as well as the [Ministry of Education's School Fundraising Guideline](#).

*7. What is grandfathering with respect to LTD? How much are staff paying? Do staff need LTD?*

**Response**

Grandfathering refers to a provision in which an old rule continues to apply to some existing situations, while a new rule will apply to all future cases. The LTD benefit premium is fully employer-paid for all employee groups. The LTD benefit is tied to the collective bargaining process which is bargained at the provincial level. The recent central agreement with OECTA changed this model for new hires as of July 2024, whereby all new OECTA employees at DPCDSB would be responsible for payment of the LTD benefit. The grandfathering means that existing employees continue to have their LTD premiums paid by DPCDSB.

Most boards in Ontario have employee-paid LTD plans. The Ministry of Education is fully aware of this DPCDSB unique position. DPCDSB is committed to working with the Ministry towards a resolution as this is not something that DPCDSB can solve on its own.

*8. Doesn't an insurance company cover the LTD benefit usually? Can the benefit be migrated to a company henceforth?*

**Response**

DPCDSB has a fully insured plan in which the benefit payouts transfer to the insurance carrier. DPCDSB is responsible for the premiums associated with the LTD plan.

*9. How does this budget affect individual schools?*

**Response**

DPCDSB is committed to providing a learning environment for students that is safe, healthy and inclusive so that students can be successful and achieve their goals. Schools receive a base budget to address school level costs related to delivery of curriculum, classroom supplies and minor repairs. Centrally, the DPCDSB also provides further support to schools, including centralized curriculum purchases and a recently approved standardized device-to-student ratio program.

Many of our schools are very successful at running fundraising initiatives to help support the costs of doing extra things to support students, including extracurricular activities, bringing in guest speakers, and programs like scientists in the schools.

*10. Can someone make it possible to access cheaper or sale technology or other resources?*

**Response**

DPCDSB must follow the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive. This ensures all publicly funded goods and services are procured through a process that is open, fair and transparent. While there may be items available at a lower cost, warranties and product life cycles are taken into consideration. Cybersecurity and compatibility with Board systems are also considerations.

*11. How are smaller boards that suffer loss of Special Education funds closing budget gaps to stop families from moving to larger boards to access special needs programs & resources?*

**Response**

Although we cannot comment on what other Boards may be doing to close their budget gaps, almost all boards in the province are running a deficit in their Special Education envelope, including DPCDSB. Over half of the Special Education funding comes from the per pupil allocation which is based on the total student population, not just students receiving Special Education programs and services.

*12. What are some plans that will be put into place to address the shortages of occasional teachers to cover when staff are absent. Students are currently without teaching staff in classrooms for over a month (monitors are being used because of lack of supply teachers)?*

**Response**

DPCDSB continuously recruits qualified occasional teachers and continue to be a presence at teacher recruitment fairs held throughout the region. There are over 1,000 occasional teachers on the Board's roster. Emergency staff are only used when a certified teacher is not available. If there is a classroom specific concern, please reach out to your School Principal.

*13. There was mention of math facilitators, what about facilitators for literacy?*

**Response**

Math and literacy are priority initiatives of the Ministry of Education that are funded through the Responsive Education Programs (REP). During 2024-2025, the Ministry funded the hiring of education staff to support reading interventions as well as school math facilitators. These supports were critical in administering early reading screening assessments and working directly with students requiring additional support for reading and math. REP initiatives have not yet been announced for the 2025-2026 year, but it is hoped the Ministry of Education will continue to fund these initiatives.

*14. Why not have an incentive for teacher attendance like carrying over sick days & retirement earlier? What about more health opportunities during school hours like professional development, wellness?*

**Response**

Sick leave and other benefits form part of collective agreements which are bargained centrally under the *School Board Collective Bargaining Act (SBCBA)*. There is no funding from the Ministry of Education for incentive programs to monetize rewards for attendance.

DPCDSB has an Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) for staff to access specialized support and the Board also has online resources and tools available to promote employee wellness.

*15. Why not have daycares or YMCA in some schools to get extra funds?*

**Response**

DPCDSB has some current space lease arrangements in place. However, underutilized space, or empty pupil spaces, is an ongoing issue. Annually, DPCDSB holds a Community Planning and Partnerships public meeting to provide information to interested community partners regarding the potential use of available space and/or potential co-build opportunities for community needs.

For more information on the Community Planning and Partnership framework and principles, please refer to the [Community Planning and Partnership Policy](#).

*16. Are we doing enough to ask parents whose kids attend our schools to direct their property taxes to the catholic board?*

**Response**

The Board of Trustees approved Board Policy *P-1010: Catholic School Support Designation*, that ensures the DPCDSB conducts an ongoing public awareness campaign to encourage eligible Catholic ratepayers to check their municipal forms on a regular basis to ensure that it supports the English Separate (Catholic) school system. DPCDSB has the "[Are You Ticked](#)" program which is shared with parishes and our communities.

*17. Are high performance programs in secondary being considered to combat loss of students to private schools?*

**Response**

There are many programs currently offered at DPCDSB schools, including local and regional programs such as Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement (AP), French immersion, Extended French and several regional programs. Please contact the Guidance department or school principal for more information.

*18. Why are French Immersion students not accommodated on bus transportation?*

**Response**

As a result of the high costs associated with busing students to regional programs, this was not provided when the DPCDSB introduced French Immersion programs. As these are programs of choice, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide the required transportation to the program. This limitation is communicated to parents/guardians that are considering enrolment of their child(ren) in French Immersion.