

Ministry of Education

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2016: B15

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairs of Board
Directors of Education

FROM: Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister
Financial Policy and Business Division

DATE: August 25, 2016

SUBJECT: School Facility Condition Assessment Data: 2011-15
Assessment Cycle

The Ministry has committed to publicly post detailed information on the condition of Ontario's publicly funded schools and has been in discussion with board staff on releasing this data over the last several months. With the five-year school assessment cycle now complete and the data compiled, it is important that Ontarians can access such critical information about their local schools. As the government commits significant investments toward school repair and renewal, Ontarians have the right to a transparent resource for determining the necessity of such investments, and also for monitoring the results of these investments.

School Facility Condition Assessment Data collected between 2011 and 2015 has now been posted on the Ministry's website (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/fci.html>). During this period approximately 900 school buildings were assessed each year. This is twenty percent of the portfolio annually or approximately 4,500 buildings in total over the full assessment cycle. These facility assessments have occurred under the Ministry's School Facility Condition Assessment Program, which was designed in collaboration with a school board technical committee.

The assessments were completed by independent third-party facility assessors conducting a non-invasive inspection of school facilities across the province. The assessment team was comprised of two engineers; one with expertise in building design and construction and the other with expertise in building systems (e.g. mechanical and electrical).

The information contained in today's release is only for elementary and secondary schools that are open and operating in the 2015-16 school year. Schools that are closed (i.e. without elementary or secondary enrolment) are not included in this release.

The data release includes the following school information:

- School board name and number
- School name and building number
- City and postal code
- Weighted age
 - This takes into consideration additions and demolitions to original building
- Gross floor area in square meters for the entire building
- Facility enrolment
 - Total elementary and secondary enrolment for the 2015-16 school year
- Asset replacement value
 - This is based on current Ministry construction benchmarks to reflect the changes that have occurred over the five year cycle including the introduction of the variable area per pupil, site specific geographic adjustment factor and full day kindergarten
- Shared facility status
 - Facilities shared between two boards are listed under the name of each board operating in the facility (ownership is not a consideration).
- Total five year renewal at the time of assessment (i.e. year of assessment plus four (4) years):
 - As the assessment cycle occurred over 5 years, assessments have been adjusted for inflation. Note that a draft set of numbers were pre-released to boards for review prior to the final release. The pre-release renewal numbers were not adjusted for inflation.
- Total five year renewal needs by major building categories (adjusted for inflation):
 - Structure: includes roofs, windows and exterior doors
 - Interiors: includes interior doors, carpets and tiles
 - Services: includes electrical, plumbing, and HVAC
 - Site & other: includes storm sewers, parking lots and site lighting
- Facility condition index (total five year renewal ÷ asset replacement value)
- Assessment year

A technical paper is accompanying the release of this data, which explains all the data fields in more detail (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/fci.html>). Our intention is to provide you with detailed information to assist you in responding to any media inquiries about your local schools. As the renewal needs in this release are the five year renewal needs identified at the time of assessment, we suggest that boards be prepared to provide information regarding:

- any investments made or in progress at your local schools since the assessments (e.g. retrofits, maintenance, demolitions)
- upcoming school consolidations and closures
- programming changes and enhancements
- any other applicable details in your annual capital plan

On June 27th, 2016, the Ministry made a historic \$1.1 billion investment to repair and renew schools across the province. The additional funding responds to the detailed information collected through the School Facility Condition Assessment Program. The assessment program has been informative in guiding Ministry decision making and the Ministry has committed to continue the assessment program. We appreciate the support provided by school boards over the past five years and we hope to have your continued support as we move into the next assessment cycle.

Original signed by:

Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister
Financial Policy and Business Division

Attachment: Technical Paper – School Facility Condition Assessment Data

cc: Senior Business Officials
Plant Managers
Trustee Associations
Principals Associations