

Ministry of Education

Capital and Business Support
Division

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2024:B08

Date: April 26, 2024

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Senior Business Officials
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Didem Proulx
Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Capital and Business
Support Division

Subject: Capital Funding for the 2024-25 School Year

Thank you for your support over the past year. Together, the ministry and the school boards have made significant progress toward maximizing school board capital assets by building modern schools faster, better utilizing school capacity and enhancing accountability and transparency.

Earlier this year, the ministry launched a redesigned Capital Priorities Program with an enhanced Capital Accountability Framework and with the introduction of the *Better Schools and Students Outcomes Act, 2023*, new measures will be implemented to facilitate the use of shared sites and schools in joint-use facilities and streamline the disposition of properties at fair market value.

The ministry will continue to collaborate with the school boards and with the broader sector to deliver the schools communities need, where and when they need them.

As a follow up to memorandum 2024:B05, 2024-25 Core Education Funding, this memo provides details related to 2024-25 Building, Expanding and Renewing Schools funding (BERS), including school year capital funding along with updates and reminders for some capital programs and policies, including:

1. School Renewal Funding
2. School Condition Assessment Program
3. Capital Planning Capacity
4. Land Priorities
5. Temporary Accommodation Allocation
6. Capital Priorities Program
7. Debt Servicing for Capital Programs
8. Education Capital Information System (ECIS)
9. Education Capital Policies and Programs Manual
10. Communications Protocol for Capital Projects

1. School Renewal Funding

The ministry is committed to supporting modern and safe learning environments. For the 2024-25 school year, the ministry will be investing an additional \$1.4 billion through the following two programs.

- School Condition Improvement at \$1,070 million; and
- School Renewal Allocation projected to be about \$375 million.

The School Renewal Allocation (SRA) is now part of the School Facilities Fund under Core Education Funding. This funding allows school boards to revitalize and renew aged building systems and components. While school boards are provided the above flexibility under SRA, they are encouraged to prioritize their allocation to address facility condition, ventilation, accessibility, health and safety, and general code requirements. These priorities should also be accounted for under a board's capital plan.

Please see Appendix A for individual school board SRA allocations.

Time Limits on Renewal Funding

Significant annual investments are made to renew and improve schools and it is important that on the ground improvement are realized in a timely manner. For this reason, last year, the ministry introduced time limits on renewal funds where funding expires approximately 2.5 years after being allocated.

- 2023-24 school year renewal allocations will expire March 31, 2026.
- 2024-25 school year renewal allocations will expire March 31, 2027.
- All funds available from prior school years will expire March 31, 2027.

Consideration will be provided for funds that are legally committed. Project details, including start date, end date and commitments must be reported in VFA Facility.

2. School Condition Assessment Program

This program supports school board planning activities and was relaunched in 2023. VFA is reaching out to orient school boards to the new program and schedule 2024 assessments. Should boards are asked to review the material and prepare for the upcoming assessments, including templates related to:

- Accessibility Review
- Ventilation Review
- Energy Calculator

3. Capital Planning Capacity (CPC)

The CPC program is intended to:

- Help school boards develop capital plans to effectively manage their capital assets;
- Identify and develop potential facility partnership opportunities; and
- Provide support to hire third-party services to facilitate municipal/board planning discussions and collaboration.

For the 2024-25 school year, school board funding levels under the CPC program will be maintained from the previous year.

See Appendix A to review funding under this program.

4. Land Priorities

The Land Priorities Grant program provides funding for school boards that require land to support future capital projects on a case-by-case basis. It is the source of funding to buy land for school boards that are not eligible to collect Education Development Charges revenue, or for school sites that are required for reasons other than new residential growth.

For the 2024-25 school year, the ministry will continue to consider funding support to school boards for the acquisition of land for capital projects.

5. Temporary Accommodation Allocation

For 2024-25, the ministry will continue to fund \$40 million for the Temporary Accommodation Allocation in proportion to school boards' historical share of temporary accommodation activity. This funding may be used for portable moves, leases, and purchases, as well as for lease costs for instructional space.

As a reminder, boards may also use their School Renewal Allocation to support the repair/retrofit and replacement of existing portables due to condition. Boards are encouraged to use their Temporary Accommodation allocation prior to directing Renewal allocation funds towards existing portable costs. Renewal funding cannot be used for net new portables that would increase the board's inventory. To ensure fair and accurate temporary accommodation funding in future years, it is recommended that school boards reflect any changes to their

portable inventory in the ECIS.

See Appendix A to review funding allocations under this program.

6. Capital Priorities Program

The Capital Priorities (CP) Program is an annual program that provides school boards with an opportunity to identify and address their most urgent pupil accommodation needs for ministry funding consideration. CP is the prime means of funding for new schools (built or acquired), additions or major renovations.

In 2023-24, the CP Program was enhanced to reflect key government commitments to build and invest in infrastructure. Program improvements were made to speed up the construction of new schools through enhanced design standardization, reduced approval requirements and greater transparency and accountability to support high-quality instruction in healthy, safe and modern learning facilities.

Ministry staff are committed to working collaboratively with school boards to provide guidance and respond to questions as boards consider the development of future capital plans, including future requests for Capital Priorities funding. The ministry encourages school boards to continue to develop their top priority projects.

Information on the launch of the 2024-25 Capital Priorities program will be shared with the sector in the future.

7. Debt Servicing Costs for Capital Programs – Short-Term Interest Costs for Capital Grant Programs

The ministry is adjusting the rate recognized for funding purposes from the Canadian Dollar Offered Rate (CDOR) acceptance published rates to the Canadian Overnight Repo Rate Average (CORRA). This is in response to commercial banks transitioning from the use of interbank offered rates (IBOR), such as CDORs, to the use of CORRAs as IBORs are no longer considered to be reliable interest rate benchmarks.

School boards will receive funding for their short-term interest costs incurred on projects that are underway in the following cases:

- where a school board short-term finances by borrowing from its internal reserves, the ministry recognizes these costs at an annual rate of 1 per cent
- where a school board short-term finances by external borrowing, the ministry recognizes the short-term interest costs for the average daily rate for the period of borrowing plus 75 basis points.

More information, including a tool to calculate CORRA compounded between any two dates, can be found at: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/interest-rates/corra/>.

8. Education Capital Information System (ECIS)

The ministry will be updating the excel based data validation process for the 2024-25 school year. This process will begin in the fall (details will be communicated then) with sequential requests for portables, schools and room level data. In tandem, we are in the process of updating the user interface of ECIS, which will be rolled out in 2025.

9. Education Capital Policies and Programs Manual

Along with the release of the Core Education Funding: Technical Guide for School Boards, 2024-25, we are pleased to release this year the Education Capital Policies and Programs Manual. This comprehensive document offers guidance on the capital funding programs and policies, including processes and accountability measures that support capital infrastructure throughout its lifecycle.

The Education Capital Policies and Programs Manual is available at [Ontario Ministry of Education \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/education-capital-policies-and-programs-manual).

10. Communications Protocol for Capital Projects

As announced in 2024 SB07: Updated Communications Protocol, the ministry has updated the Communications Protocol to provide school boards with direction on public communications, events and signage related to ministry capital funding programs. As a reminder, signage is now required for Capital Priorities and child care projects as well as renewal projects supported with an investment of \$250,000 or more (through School Condition Improvement and/or School Renewal Allocation) or have a project duration of 90 days or more at a school site.

Please refer to the Communications Protocol before undertaking any public communications activities related to capital funding and additional details on signage requirements.

Key Contacts

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact:

Contact	Subject Area
Andrea Dutton, Director Capital Policy Branch (416) 500-8402 Andrea.Dutton@ontario.ca	School Condition Assessment Program Funding for School Renewal Capital Planning Capacity Program

Contact	Subject Area
Paul Bloye, Director Capital Programs Branch (416) 325-8589 Paul.Bloye@ontario.ca	Capital Priorities Program Child Care Capital Funding Land Priorities Funding Temporary Accommodation Allocation Capital Accountability Framework Major Capital Progress Report Education Development Charges
Patrizia Del Riccio, Director (A) Business Operations Strategic Support Branch (416) 885-2950 Patrizia.DelRiccio@ontario.ca	Design Standardization Communications Protocol, including Signage
Mehul Mehta, Director School Board Advanced Support Branch (647) 448-3862 Mehul.Mehta@ontario.ca	Education Capital Information System

Please refer to the Education Capital Policies and Programs Manual at [Ontario Ministry of Education \(gov.on.ca\)](http://Ontario Ministry of Education (gov.on.ca)) for more details on these and other initiatives.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Didem Proulx
 Assistant Deputy Minister
 Capital and Business Support Division

c: School Board Facilities Managers

Appendix A: 2024-25 Capital Funding Allocations

Board ID	School Board Name	School Condition Improvement (\$)	School Renewal Allocation (\$)	Capital Planning Capacity (\$)	Temporary Accommodation Allocation (\$)
1	District School Board Ontario North East	13,822,303	3,234,106	150,111	71,747
2	Algoma District School Board	12,122,006	3,366,930	150,111	35,874
3	Rainbow District School Board	12,063,313	3,427,505	150,111	143,495
4	Near North District School Board	3,984,203	2,705,243	150,111	161,431
5.1	Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	7,923,899	1,945,215	111,123	143,495
5.2	Rainy River District School Board	2,059,062	1,074,487	83,185	-
6.1	Lakehead District School Board	8,123,266	2,408,406	150,111	-
6.2	Superior-Greenstone District School Board	4,846,455	1,348,914	111,123	-
7	Bluewater District School Board	6,481,850	3,646,442	163,370	1,199,276
8	Avon Maitland District School Board	12,019,499	3,722,110	122,173	233,179
9	Greater Essex County District School Board	20,399,121	6,418,841	163,370	358,736
10	Lambton Kent District School Board	18,046,638	4,650,622	163,370	185,108
11	Thames Valley District School Board	51,252,335	14,134,991	198,728	1,829,556
12	Toronto District School Board	248,404,644	47,303,025	361,309	448,421
13	Durham District School Board	17,879,474	11,844,088	55,525	2,582,902

Board ID	School Board Name	School Condition Improvement (\$)	School Renewal Allocation (\$)	Capital Planning Capacity (\$)	Temporary Accommodation Allocation (\$)
14	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board	15,290,259	6,845,384	163,370	860,967
15	Trillium Lakelands District School Board	10,996,032	3,543,856	163,370	179,368
16	York Region District School Board	28,815,180	18,422,449	66,758	860,967
17	Simcoe County District School Board	12,119,483	9,169,658	55,525	1,840,112
18	Upper Grand District School Board	11,018,176	6,325,939	46,217	659,826
19	Peel District School Board	46,651,466	20,588,686	80,238	1,323,905
20	Halton District School Board	21,364,659	10,516,468	55,525	2,754,083
21	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board	18,478,073	8,894,913	179,392	1,402,439
22	District School Board of Niagara	22,573,601	8,431,216	207,330	753,346
23	Grand Erie District School Board	17,331,068	6,122,828	163,370	843,031
24	Waterloo Region District School Board	32,999,009	10,424,599	55,525	1,287,806
25	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	47,699,095	15,439,448	235,269	717,473
26	Upper Canada District School Board	19,620,239	7,368,256	235,269	233,179
27	Limestone District School Board	16,676,028	4,666,463	135,432	430,484
28	Renfrew County District School Board	6,673,981	2,873,318	122,173	71,712

Board ID	School Board Name	School Condition Improvement (\$)	School Renewal Allocation (\$)	Capital Planning Capacity (\$)	Temporary Accommodation Allocation (\$)
29	Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board	10,516,697	3,556,278	150,111	250,491
30.1	Northeastern Catholic District School Board	3,284,269	1,053,587	111,123	-
30.2	Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board	1,701,313	908,731	83,185	-
31	Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board	2,461,390	1,371,319	111,123	17,937
32	Sudbury Catholic District School Board	5,380,325	1,448,349	32,095	17,937
33.1	Northwest Catholic District School Board	310,485	709,332	32,095	89,684
33.2	Kenora Catholic District School Board	1,580,703	558,044	83,185	-
34.1	Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board	4,824,407	1,525,318	83,185	89,684
34.2	Superior North Catholic District School Board	1,839,673	726,995	32,095	-
35	Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board	1,361,446	1,021,465	32,095	478,315
36	Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	2,642,821	884,326	32,095	47,040
37	Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board	9,615,089	3,864,790	122,173	721,287

Board ID	School Board Name	School Condition Improvement (\$)	School Renewal Allocation (\$)	Capital Planning Capacity (\$)	Temporary Accommodation Allocation (\$)
38	London District Catholic School Board	6,238,040	4,533,075	135,432	3,671,530
39	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	4,208,406	1,575,170	38,514	230,309
40	Toronto Catholic District School Board	49,270,116	16,514,971	310,483	2,477,784
41	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board	5,486,101	2,300,556	38,514	89,684
42	York Catholic District School Board	12,467,923	6,639,406	207,330	71,747
43	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board	23,228,517	9,684,736	207,330	450,920
44	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	4,157,850	3,371,064	46,217	538,105
45	Durham Catholic District School Board	5,334,649	3,245,634	38,514	565,488
46	Halton Catholic District School Board	5,842,198	4,855,816	46,217	1,327,773
47	Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	7,583,981	4,817,123	46,217	376,673
48	Wellington Catholic District School Board	1,084,989	1,302,567	32,095	114,796
49	Waterloo Catholic District School Board	7,020,953	4,315,070	38,514	2,644,881

Board ID	School Board Name	School Condition Improvement (\$)	School Renewal Allocation (\$)	Capital Planning Capacity (\$)	Temporary Accommodation Allocation (\$)
50	Niagara Catholic District School Board	12,938,835	3,930,925	46,217	516,700
51	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board	2,529,450	1,999,281	122,173	53,810
52	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario	4,928,978	2,195,285	122,173	89,684
53	Ottawa Catholic School Board	17,778,092	8,388,716	163,370	1,130,020
54	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board	4,769,160	1,137,791	111,123	82,236
55	Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board	6,713,965	2,300,770	38,514	373,350
56	Conseil scolaire de district du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	945,873	843,843	32,095	188,625
57	Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	4,765,397	1,252,650	111,123	19,133
58	Conseil scolaire Viamonde	9,772,619	2,984,530	46,217	329,404
59	Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	4,908,880	3,100,173	122,173	520,168
60.1	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Grandes Rivières	14,011,912	3,297,851	178,050	-
60.2	Conseil scolaire de district catholique Franco-Nord	3,616,290	1,013,209	32,095	-
61	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario	6,174,352	1,928,938	150,111	-

Board ID	School Board Name	School Condition Improvement (\$)	School Renewal Allocation (\$)	Capital Planning Capacity (\$)	Temporary Accommodation Allocation (\$)
62	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales	518,801	686,632	32,095	-
63	Conseil scolaire catholique Providence	4,226,410	1,836,143	94,234	371,003
64	Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	8,906,065	2,822,169	46,217	262,517
65	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien	9,038,280	2,892,342	178,050	-
66	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario	8,279,883	4,474,981	135,432	179,368