

Capital & Facilities



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

School boards spend much of their time and effort developing Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategies – a ministry-mandated document, with a 10-year outlook, that is updated and approved each year. This strategy enables boards to balance student enrolment among overcrowded and under-used schools while maintaining equitable access to programming. Consideration is also given to the use of schools by local childcare partners and community groups. In many areas, schools are community hubs and need to be supported as such for widespread before-and-after school use. In recent Nanos Research polling, 89% of Ontarians say more funding for the maintenance, repair and renewal of schools is important or somewhat important.

OPSBA RECOMMENDS

- Capital priority project funding needs to be released on a regular planning cycle.
- Capital funding benchmarks need to reflect the increased cost of construction.
- Delays between the approval and release of funding must be minimized, to avoid increased costs for goods and services, which are typically absorbed by school boards and further delay students' access to optimal learning environments.
- The Education Development Charge (EDC) regulation needs to allow flexibility for non-eligible boards to collect EDCs. These rates need to be increased to accurately match actual land purchase costs.

It is important for capital projects (new builds, additions, and retrofits) to be announced regularly and predictably, and they need to reflect the local needs of the school board.

QUESTIONS?

How can school boards and the government work together to ensure that schools are built in the right place, for the right price, with the best interest of students and our communities at the forefront?

How can the approvals for child care and school capital projects be prioritized and sped up?

What are some creative options that could be considered when planning and building future schools and learning places?

What can be done to further support school board facilities and their outdoor areas during non-school hours?

