

Ministry of Education Appointed Supervisor, Rick Byers

October 1, 2025

<i>CAPITAL PRIORITIES PROGRAM 2025-26</i>
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Multi-Year Strategic Plan Values: Trust, Excel

“Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’”

2 Samuel 7:3

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Education (Ministry) announced the launch of the 2025-26 Capital Priorities Program, including requests for childcare capital on September 8, 2025. The submission deadline for all capital funding requests is October 8, 2025.

DISCUSSION

For the 2025-26 Capital Priorities program, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) has an opportunity to submit detailed project proposals to address current accommodation needs related to the following criteria:

- Accommodation Pressures
- School Consolidation
- Facility Condition

Submissions must demonstrate a critical and urgent pupil accommodation need to be considered for funding approval.

In keeping with the 2025-26 request for Capital Priorities, boards are required to provide high level summary information of future long-term growth needs related to the Housing Supply Action Plan and in relation to municipal growth plans.

The Accommodation Pressure metric will remain unchanged from 2024-25 submissions:

- Current utilization (SY 2024-25) must be equal to or greater than 95%, including nearby area schools; and
- For the proposed scenario with the new project, utilization for the project and area schools must reach 100% or higher by year five after the project's completion.

School boards are encouraged to identify opportunities to work together on joint-use project submissions. There is also an opportunity to request Child Care Capital funding for childcare projects only if associated with a larger Capital Priorities project.

In keeping with requirements from the 2024-2025 submission, school boards are to complete a project readiness assessment and provide a summary of key project milestones.

Design Standardization

With respect to design plans, the Ministry requires boards to utilize repeat designs which are aligned within the current ministry space benchmark requirement and where project costs are aligned and consistent with current market conditions, and designs that have been approved/tendered since 2021 to reflect current costs.

Board Performance Assessment

The Ministry has advised that as part of the evaluation process, school boards will be assessed on performance history delivering capital projects including adherence to project timelines, time to completion, cost overages, existing inventory of active projects, adherence to space benchmarks, and Capital Accountability Framework compliance.

Project Submissions

A completed Capital Priorities Submission will include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Business Case – Part A (Excel Template)
 - a. Project Information
 - b. Closest Facilities
 - c. Space Template
 - d. Enrolment Projections
 - e. Child Care Joint Submission (if applicable)
 - f. Child Care Space Template (if applicable)
 - g. Cost Estimates
 - h. Submission Checklist
2. Business Case – Part B (Written Report)
 - a. Written description of project with detailed information on the rationale, proposed scope of work and demonstration of why alternative options are not feasible
 - b. Evidence and details on school site, design plans and cost estimates
 - c. Detailed information on costing estimates and assumptions made
 - d. Detailed project plan with timelines for key project milestones
3. Design
 - a. A repeat design of a school building tendered since 2021
 - b. Exemptions from a repeat design include the following:
 - i. Additions/renovations,
 - ii. Projects with unique site constraints,
 - iii. Podium or vertical schools,
 - iv. Secondary schools, and
 - v. Schools in joint-use facilities

****Projects submitted without a design may be ineligible for funding***

4. Long-Term Growth Needs

- a. Details of longer-term growth needs for addressing current and projected pupil accommodation needs linked to the Ontario Action Plan and related to municipal growth plans

The inability for DPCDSB to undertake a Pupil Accommodation Review and close schools, limits the strength and number of Capital Priority project submissions. Currently, capacity exceeds enrolment in many areas of the board, and the capacity of surrounding schools is a large factor in determining the feasibility of proposed projects.

DPCDSB Proposed Capital Priorities 2024-2025

DPCDSB is recommending two (2) projects for submission:

Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School – Internal Retrofit:

The request is for a three (3) classroom addition within the existing, internal space at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School (CSS). In 2023, the Town of Caledon vacated the space that was at one time a joint-use library. School enrolment continues to increase, and projections indicate continued growth over the next 10 years. The Robert F. Hall CSS site is currently at its maximum complement of six (6) portables. Creating classrooms within available vacant space, that is internal to the building, would be an economically viable solution towards accommodating enrolment growth from Dufferin County and Caledon East.

Mount Pleasant Catholic Secondary School:

The request is for a 1089 pupil place Catholic secondary school to accommodate enrolment growth in northwest Brampton. There is a considerable amount of growth anticipated in Mount Pleasant West, Heritage Heights and areas south of the proposed Highway 413 in Caledon. Enrolment pressures currently exist at DPCDSB secondary schools adjacent to these new development areas which has resulted in capped enrolments and the redirection of students to alternate secondary schools outside of students' current neighbourhoods. A new secondary school to support existing and anticipated enrolment in northwest Brampton warrants the request for this project.

In addition, the Region of Peel has expressed a need for a childcare centre as part of the proposed Mount Pleasant CSS, to accommodate 73 childcare spaces. This request will be included as part of the business case submission for the Mount Pleasant CSS project.

The board approved ranking system has been applied to both proposed projects. The projects are ranked as follows:

1. Mount Pleasant Catholic Secondary School – New School
2. Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School – Internal Retrofit

CONCLUSION

On September 8, 2025, the Ministry of Education announced the launch of the 2025-26 Capital Priorities Program. School boards must adhere to the business case submission requirements outlined by the Ministry to ensure a complete submission for consideration. The submission deadline is October 8, 2025. DPCDSB is proposing the submission of two projects: Robert F. Hall CSS – Internal Retrofit, and a new 1089 pupil place Mount Pleasant CSS. Both project requests are directly related to increased enrolment pressures that cannot be accommodated elsewhere in the board.

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION IS PROVIDED FOR CONSIDERATION:

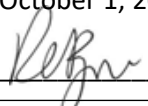
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| 1. THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION APPOINTED SUPERVISOR APPROVE THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD'S 2025-26 CAPITAL PRIORITIES SUBMISSION |
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Date of Approval:	October 1, 2025 _____
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Signature:	 _____
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