

March 23, 2026

The following letter is sent on behalf of Amy Collard, Chair of the Halton District School Board

School Board Funding

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Trustees of the HDSB, I would like to express our appreciation for the thousands of responses received from our community regarding the 2026-2027 School Board Budget. Your engagement in our budget development process demonstrates our collective commitment to student achievement and well-being.

Starting last fall, HDSB staff facilitated 23 budget workshops and presentations. Participants included parents, Special Education Advisory Committee members, staff, union leaders and Trustees. A total of 116 budget ideas were generated by the over 500 participants who engaged in the process.

In January, the HDSB launched a budget survey that garnered 3,181 responses. The results of that survey were presented in a [report to the Board](#) on March 3rd and more detail was provided in the accompanying [appendix](#). We noted a significant increase in the number of students who participated, indicating that our students are very much interested in ensuring the budget reflects their needs.

Major priority areas for respondents included:

- Class sizes;
- School facility repairs and upgrades;
- Special education supports;
- Mental health and well-being;
- Curriculum delivery;
- Access to resources, opportunities, and support; and
- Students specifically identified an investment focus on:
 - Extracurricular activities;
 - Sports and arts programs;
 - Access to technology;
 - Student mental health and well being; and
 - School maintenance and repairs.

Major areas of budgetary savings that were recommended include:

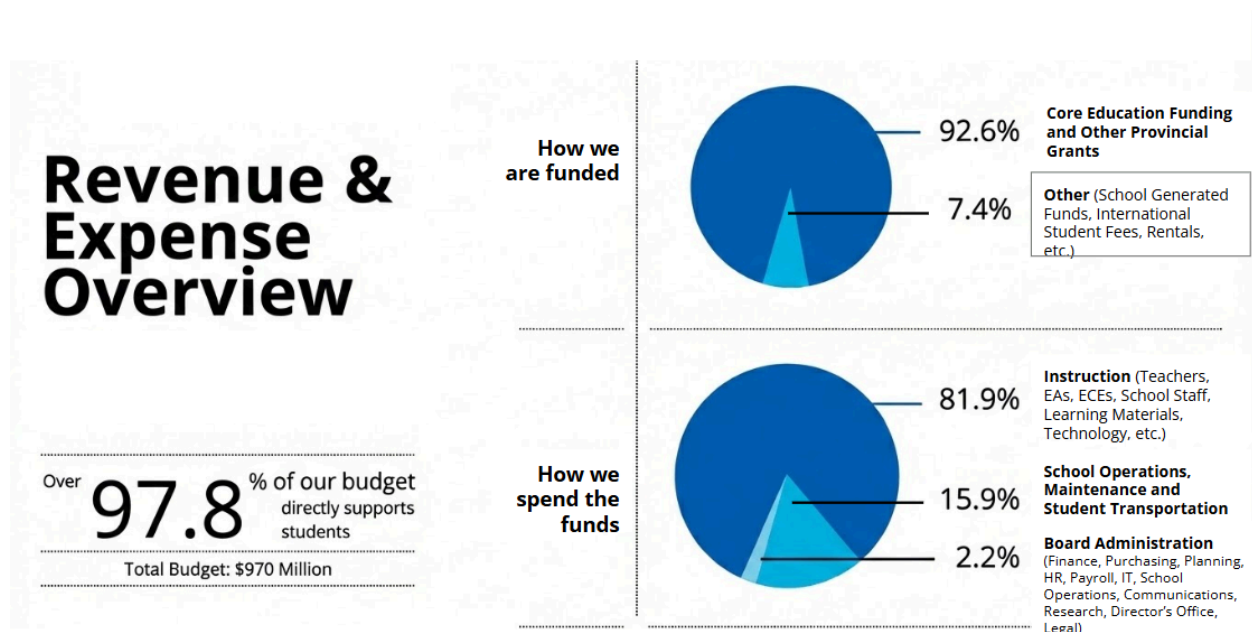
- Professional development and technology;
- Administrative overhead

- Consolidated procurement to reduce costs;
- Student transportation.

Some of the priorities identified by respondents cannot be achieved within the current funding model. The Ministry of Education mandates class size caps and averages, and their funding model assumes that school boards will maximize class sizes. Providing smaller classes would require additional Ministry funding to support the corresponding increase in the number of classroom staff.

The HDSB currently invests 98% of our budget in providing direct classroom supports to students, as well as facilitating student transportation, school facilities maintenance and repairs, and providing central program support to students and staff.

School board administrative expenses are already significantly less than the amount allocated by the provincial government. The savings in this area are currently being used for investments in classroom resources. There may be limited space for savings in this area given the very conservative approach already being taken in our budget.



We are grateful for the time and thoughtful input shared by students, families, staff and the community. Your perspectives play an important role in shaping a budget that supports student success and reflects the priorities of the Halton community. This feedback will guide discussions as the HDSB continues to move toward a final budget report in June. For additional information and to stay up to date with the budget development process, please visit the [Budget webpage](#) on the HDSB website.

Sincerely,

Amy Collard
HDSB Chair