



2026-2027 Budget Planning Special Education Advisory Committee

October 15, 2025

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Agenda

1. Core Education Funding Pressures
2. Enrolment trends
3. Revenues (incl. Special Education)
4. Expenses (Incl. Special Education)
5. A review of flexible/inflexible expenses
6. Next Steps

Core Education Funding Pressures

- 2014/2015 Special Education grant reallocation resulted in \$20M lost revenue with no adjustment to service model and resources
- Federally mandated enhancement to CPP/EI contributions cost HDSB over \$6M a year with no change to benefit benchmarks
- WSIB claim costs have increased by over \$5M since 2019, with no increase to funding
- Supply staffing costs continue to outpace funding, with \$14M over the allocation
- Funding for learning materials, classroom supplies and technology has remained unchanged since 2008, while inflation since then exceeds 40%
- Top up funding for underutilized schools has been phased out, reducing the School Operations and Maintenance funding by \$2.5M annually
- HDSB is currently a declining enrolment school board, which results in further loss of funding throughout all funding allocations

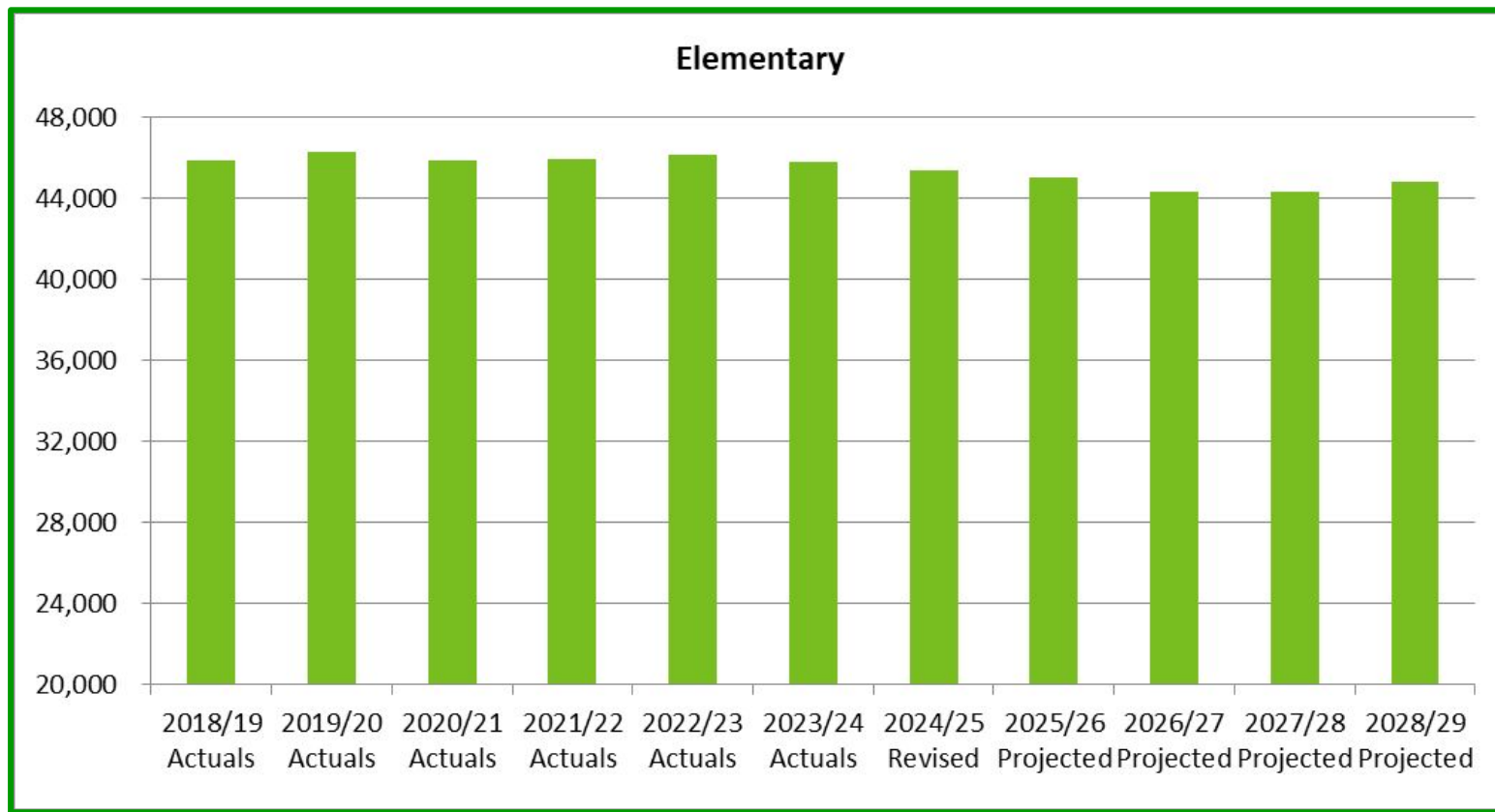
Board Approved 2025/26 In-Year Deficit Plan

In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan

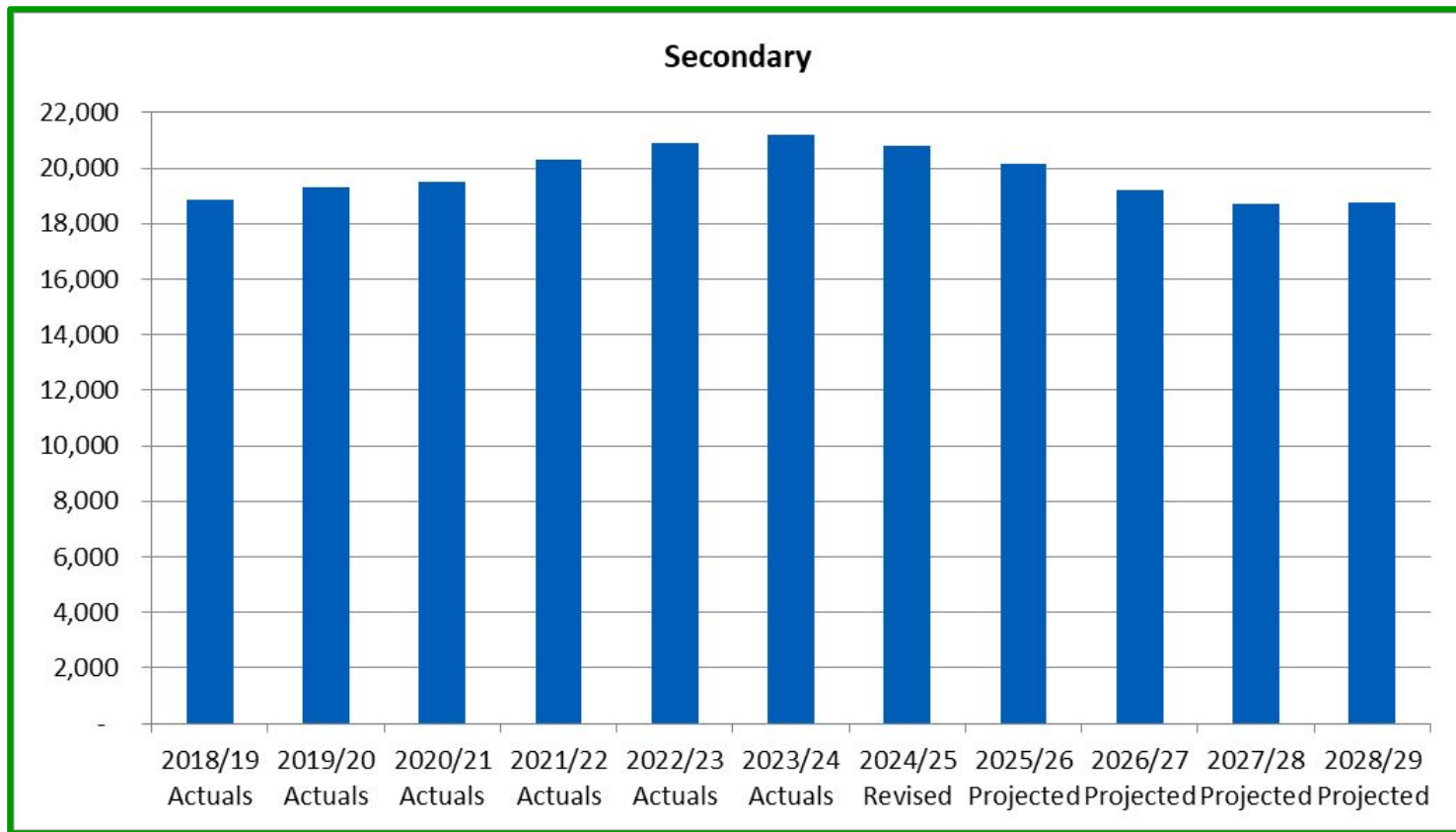
Proposed Future Reductions	Amount
Permanent Positions to be reduced	4,048,000
Temporary Positions to be reduced	1,209,000
Increase International Students Program enrolment	700,000
Non Staffing Budget reductions	500,000
Board Contingency	350,000
Corporate System Implementations (one-time)	286,000
	7,093,000

- Over the past two years, the HDSB lost over 1,800 students, and another 1,500 students are projected to exit our system over the next two years, before growth is expected to return in 2028/2029
- With an average per pupil funding for the HDSB of \$13,413, over the past two years, that translates to \$24.1 million in lost annual Core Education Funding
- To balance the 2026/2027 budget, we not only have to eliminate the current \$7.1 million deficit, but also address declining enrolment and loss of funding.
- The goal is to identify net reductions of \$10 to \$14 million dollars, which represents 1.2% to 1.6% of our provincial funding allocation

Enrolment History and Projections



Enrolment History and Projections



School Board Funding

School Boards receive most of their funding from the Province of Ontario, through Core Education Funding:

- **Classroom Staffing Fund** — supports most staffing in the classroom
- **Learning Resources Fund** — for staffing outside of the classroom to support student needs and for other classroom costs, such as learning materials and classroom equipment
- **Special Education Fund** — supports students who need specialized programs, services and/or equipment
- **School Facilities Fund** — for operating, maintaining, renovating and renewing school buildings, plus additional support for students at schools in rural and northern communities
- **Student Transportation Fund** — for transporting students to and from home and school.
- **School Board Administration Fund** — for school board administration costs, including trustees and parent engagement activities

School Board Funding (Cont'd)

Core education funding determines the total funding amount for each school board. These calculations are based on a variety of factors, such as:

- student enrolment (largest driver of funding)
- class size
- the number, condition and size of schools in a school board
- student and school needs
- school locations
- demographic and socioeconomic data
- teacher experience and qualifications

Municipalities provide part of core education funding through education property taxes, and the Government of Ontario (through the Ministry of Education) provides the remaining amount

Other sources of funding include School Generated Funds (school level/fundraising), Investment Income, Rental Income, International Student Fees, Education Development Charges and funding from other Ministries or the Federal Government (for adult language/skills instruction)

Special Education Fund

The Special Education Fund is made up of four components:

- Special Education Fund Per-Pupil Allocation
- Differentiated Needs Allocation (DNA)
- Complex Supports Allocation
- Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA)

Other Areas of the CoreEd Funding are meant to complement the Special Education Fund:

Learning Resource Fund

- The Mental Health and Wellness allocation is included in this Fund
- Support for Professional Student Services Personnel

Student Transportation Fund

- Supports transportation to Special Education programs

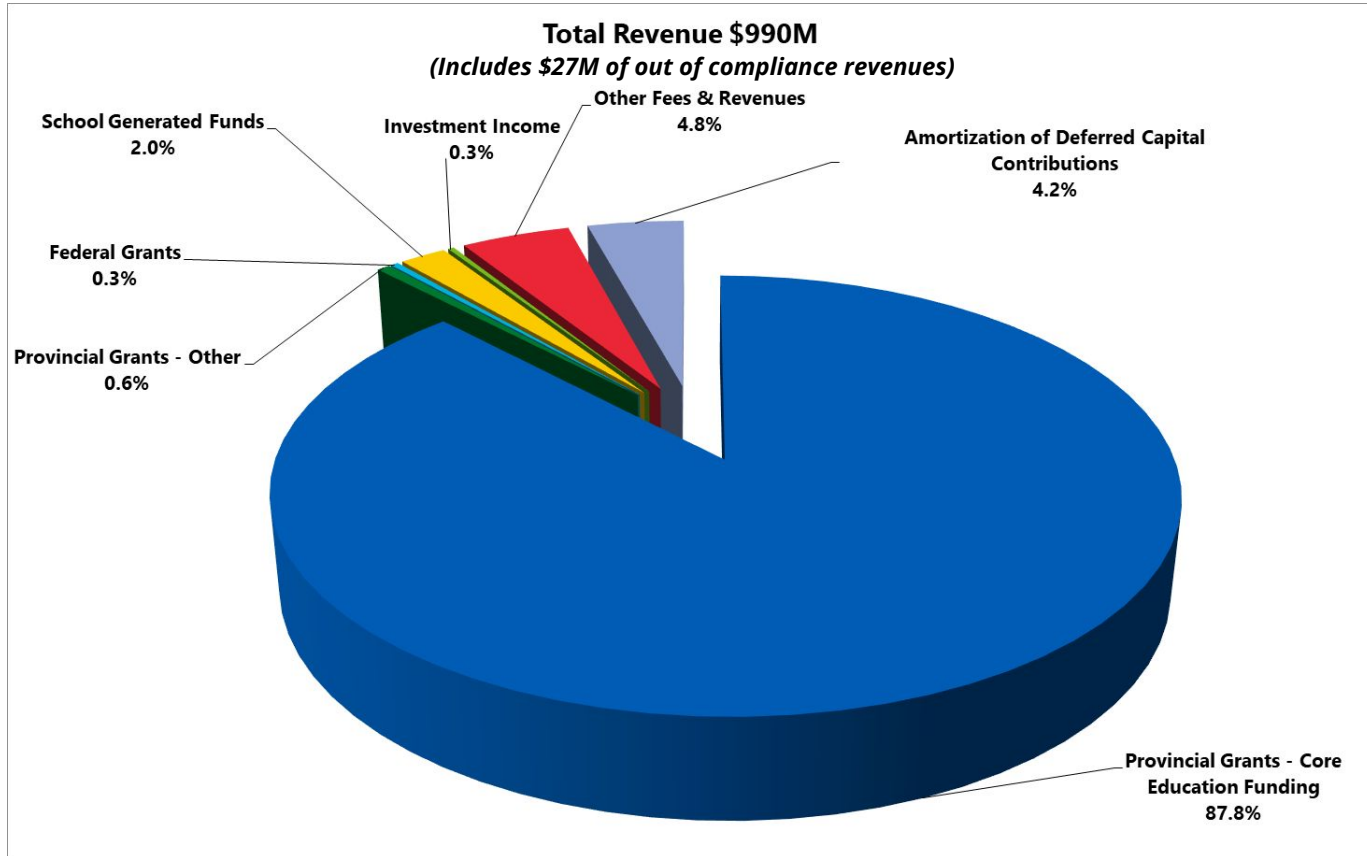
Support for Students Fund

- Part of collective agreements, includes a portion for Special Education staffing

School Board Administration Fund

- Provides support for the office of the Superintendent of Special Education

2025/26 Revenue

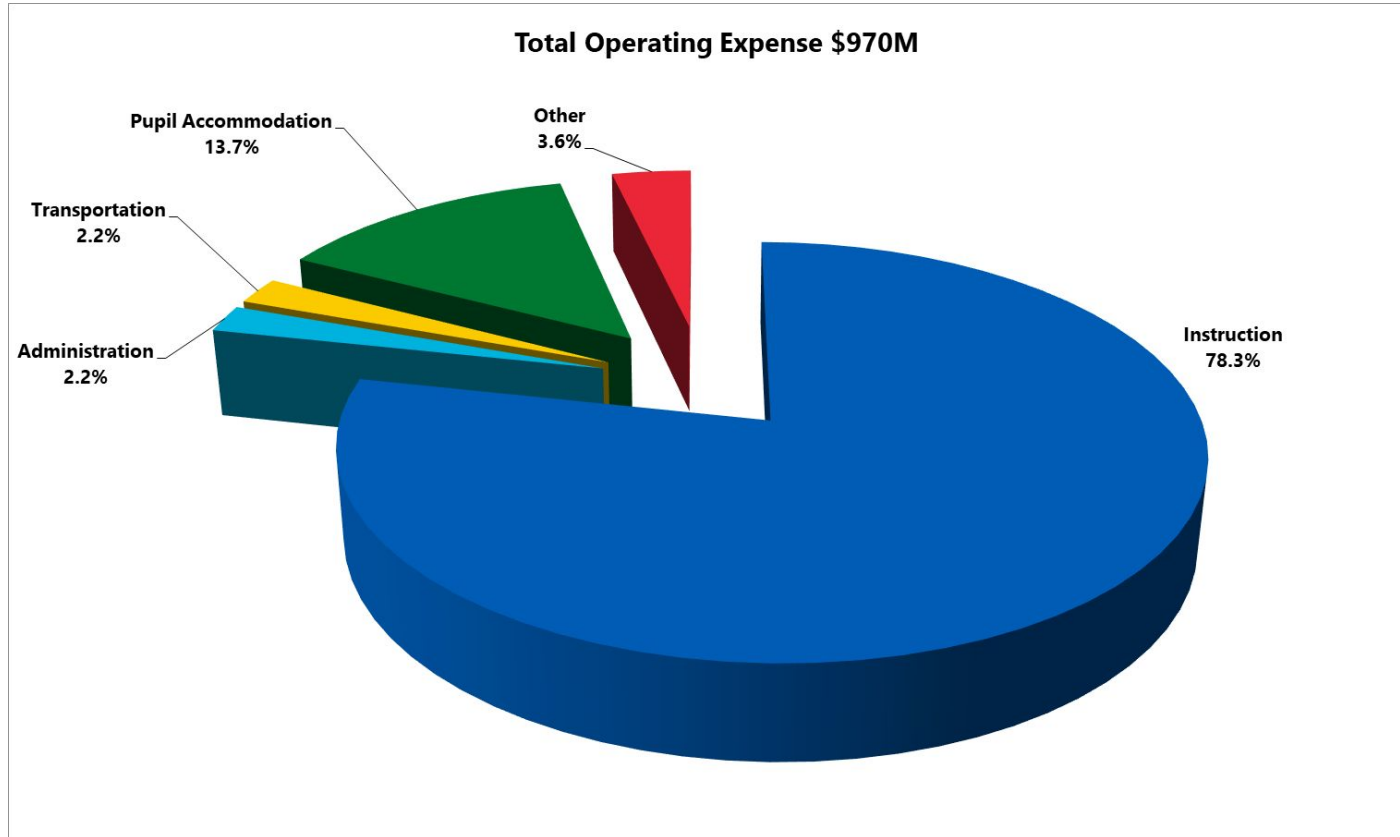


2025/26 Total Revenue

	2025/2026 Budget	2024/2025 Revised Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Revenue			
Provincial Grants - Core Education Funding ¹	\$ 869,977,968	\$ 860,071,411	\$ 9,906,557
Provincial Grants - Other ²	5,778,129	6,814,836	(1,036,707)
Federal Grants	3,363,113	3,369,043	(5,930)
School Generated Funds	20,000,000	20,000,000	-
Investment Income	2,575,000	2,850,000	(275,000)
Other Fees & Revenues ³	47,043,977	73,975,941	(26,931,964)
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	41,616,300	41,683,717	(67,417)
Total Revenue	\$ 990,354,487	\$ 1,008,764,948	\$ (18,410,461)

1. Increases are due to benchmark increases and declining enrolment funding
2. Variance due to Bill 124 REP received in 2024/25 and decrease of other REPs
3. Mainly decrease in EDC revenue from 2024/25 (out of compliance)

2025/26 Expenses



Expense Categories (staffing) - 80% of total budget

☐ Instruction **74.8%**

- ☐ Classroom Teachers
- ☐ Educational Assistants
- ☐ Early Childhood Educators
- ☐ Library and Guidance
- ☐ Professionals, Paraprofessionals & Technical
- ☐ Principals and Vice-Principals
- ☐ School Office
- ☐ Instructional Program Leads and Itinerants
- ☐ Coordinators & Consultants (System roles)
- ☐ Continuing Education

☐ Administration **1.7%**

- ☐ Trustees
- ☐ Director and Supervisory Officers
- ☐ Board Administration (*incl. Finance, Purchasing, Planning, HR, Payroll, IT, School Operations, Communications, Research, Director's Office*)

☐ Pupil Accommodation **3.5%**

- ☐ Facility Services Staff
- ☐ Health and Safety staff
- ☐ Caretakers and Cleaning Staff

Expense Categories (non staffing) - 20% of total budget

☐ Instruction **3.5%**

- ☐ Decentralized School Budgets
- ☐ Program Specific Resources
- ☐ Special Education Resources & Equipment
- ☐ Wide Area Network, Software Fees & Licenses
- ☐ Staff/Professional Development
- ☐ New Teacher Induction Program
- ☐ Instructional Computers & Connectivity

☐ Board Administration and Governance **0.5%**

- ☐ Supplies and Services
- ☐ Legal, Audit & Professional Fees
- ☐ Software Maintenance Fees
- ☐ Professional Development
- ☐ Administrative Building Maintenance & Utilities

☐ Transportation **2.3%**

- ☐ Home to School
- ☐ Program Specific
- ☐ Special Education

☐ Pupil Accommodation **10.2%**

- ☐ Utilities
- ☐ Repairs & Maintenance
- ☐ Cleaning & Caretaking Supplies
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Maintenance Contracts
- ☐ Property Maintenance
- ☐ Supplies & Services
- ☐ Amortization/Capital Interest

☐ Other **3.5%**

- ☐ School Generated Funds
- ☐ Responsive Education Programs
- ☐ Contingency

2025/26 Total Expenses

	2025/2026 Budget	2024/2025 Revised Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Instruction	\$ 759,300,676	\$ 746,058,528	\$ 13,242,148
Administration	21,196,684	21,062,849	133,835
Transportation	22,340,244	21,899,739	440,505
Pupil Accommodation	132,770,883	129,554,108	3,216,775
School Generated Funds	20,000,000	20,000,000	-
Other	14,879,644	14,295,430	584,214
Total Expenditures	\$ 970,488,131	\$ 952,870,654	\$ 17,617,477

2025/26 Special Education and Student Well-Being Funding

Special Education Allocations	Budget 2025/2026	Revised 2024/2025	Increase/ (Decrease)
Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA)	59,912,401	59,191,640	720,761
Differentiated Needs Amount (DNA)	36,538,710	37,018,389	(479,679)
Complex Supports Allocation	8,278,759	8,177,974	100,785
Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA)	4,792,653	4,700,359	92,294
Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) - Deferred Revenue	-	464,602	(464,602)
Self-Contained Adjustment	13,155,413	12,114,647	1,040,766
Special Education Fund Sub-Total	122,677,936	121,667,611	1,010,325
Supports for Students	5,464,779	5,322,422	142,356
Other CoreEd Funding Areas	10,316,190	10,552,797	(236,607)
Total Special Education Revenue	138,458,905	137,542,830	916,074

* Grants reflect 1 year of compensation increases, as well as enrolment decline. The increase in funding comes with offsetting cost commitments.

** Other CoreEd Funding Areas include funding for professionals/paraprofessionals and mental health supports

2025/26 Special Education and Student Well-Being Expenses

Special Education Expense Categories	Budget 2025/2026	Revised 2024/2025	Increase / (Decrease)
Education and Community Partnership Programs	3,909,732	3,783,704	126,028
Classroom Teachers	51,973,456	51,021,240	952,216
Supply Staff	8,053,953	7,495,229	558,724
Educational Assistants	61,530,027	58,565,933	2,964,094
Textbooks and Supplies	3,030,661	3,715,935	(685,274)
Professionals, Para & Technical	17,543,065	16,954,315	588,750
Staff Development	190,463	265,463	(75,000)
Coordinators and Consultants	3,347,385	3,254,347	93,038
Total Special Education Expenses	149,578,741	145,056,165	4,522,576
Expenditures in Excess of Revenue	(11,119,837)	(7,513,335)	(3,606,502)

2025/26 Special Education and Student Well-Being Staffing

	Budget Estimates 2025/2026			Revised Estimates 2024/2025			Increase / (Decrease)
	Base	Temporary	Total	Base	Temporary	Total	
Teachers							
Elementary Teachers	314.2	20.2	334.4	313.9	20.2	334.1	0.3
Secondary Teachers	93.3	8.0	101.3	96.8	8.0	104.8	(3.5)
	407.5	28.2	435.7	410.7	28.2	438.9	(3.2)
Educational Assistants	861.0	28.0	889.0	861.0	35.0	896.0	(7.0)
Other Staff							-
Behaviour Analysts	5.0	2.0	7.0	5.0	2.0	7.0	-
Child & Youth Counsellors	44.0	3.0	47.0	44.0	3.0	47.0	-
Clerical & Secretarial	7.2		7.2	6.2	1.0	7.2	-
Instructional Program Leaders (IPL)	21.0		21.0	21.0		21.0	-
Management And Support Staff	13.0		13.0	13.0		13.0	-
Occupational Therapist	1.0		1.0	1.0		1.0	-
Principals	2.0		2.0	2.0		2.0	-
Psychoeducational Consultants	24.0		24.0	24.0		24.0	-
Social Workers	25.5	1.0	26.5	25.5	1.0	26.5	-
Specialized Behaviour Support Workers	8.0	1.0	9.0	8.0	1.0	9.0	-
Speech-Language Pathologists	22.0		22.0	22.0		22.0	-
Student Supervisors	35.5		35.5	35.5		35.5	-
Technical & Specialized	4.0		4.0	4.0		4.0	-
Vice Principals	2.0		2.0	2.0		2.0	-
Other Staff Sub-total	214.2	7.0	221.2	213.2	8.0	221.2	-
Total Special Education FTE	1,482.7	63.2	1,545.9	1,484.9	71.2	1,556.1	(10.2)

Expense Areas that are Inflexible

- Mandated class size ratios (teachers/DECEs, elem/secondary)
- Mandated employee ratios per collective agreements (i.e. custodians per cleaning area)
- Health, statutory (CPP, EI, EHT) and pension benefit costs
- Costs outside of the board's control (supply costs, WSIB claims)
- Legal (fees and settlements) and contractual obligations
- "Keeping the lights on", i.e. utilities, network maintenance / software fees for network and major systems, emergency repairs
- Targeted and enveloped funds (i.e. Responsive Education Programs, Indigenous BAP, Federally funded programs)

Expense Areas with Flexibility

Staffing

- School-based or centrally deployed staff not mandated by collective agreements (teaching and non-teaching)
- Central supports (IPLs, LRTs, System P/VPs, other non teaching, including Program Services, Safe Schools, Equity, Student Well-Being, Spec Ed, Welcome Centre)
- Corporate supports (Business Services, HR, IT, Facilities and Planning, Communications, Research, Printing, Director's Office & School Ops)
- School admin (VP) and school office staffing ratio
- Student well-being and mental health program supports
- Special Education program supports and class size ratios

Non Staffing (Operating)

- Program resources, learning materials and supplies (including decentralized budgets)
- Technology (devices) and maintenance/software fees for certain tools
- Extra-curricular costs covered by the Board (i.e. transportation, ice/field rentals)
- Staff development (PD) costs (release time, speakers, venues, food, travel)
- Mileage claims (reduce travel if unnecessary)
- Central and individual membership fees
- Repairs and maintenance of schools/admin centres
- Student transportation (bussing) eligibility and/or route efficiencies

Next Steps

- Budget Working Group workshops during October and November
- Budget presentations to and discussion with:
 - Special Education Advisory Committee - October 15, 2025
 - Halton Union Council - October 22, 2025
 - Parent Involvement Committee - November 6, 2025
 - Committee of the Whole - November 18, 2025
- Budget presentations to and discussion with staff during November
- Public consultation launch in December, survey opening January 20, 2026
- Board reports and presentations during February and May
- Budget approval by the Board - June 2 and 16, 2026

Questions?

