

Ministry of Education

Capital and Business Support
Division

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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et aux affaires

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January 27, 2025

Mr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Ave. E.
Toronto ON., M2N 6E8

Dear Mr. Browne,

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Education has completed its detailed review of the business cases your school board submitted under the 2024-25 Capital Priorities Grant program.

As outlined in Memorandum 2024: B11 – Launch of 2024-25 Capital Priorities Program, school boards were to submit project proposals to address current accommodation needs related to accommodation pressures, school consolidation, facility condition, and access to French Language Schools. Boards also had the opportunity to request Land Priorities funding to acquire land for future capital projects on a case-by-case basis, as well as request Child Care Capital funding for child care projects associated with a larger school capital project.

Demand for funding through the 2024-25 Capital Priorities Program was significant. Altogether, there were over 160 requests from 48 school boards for school capital projects valued at over \$4 billion.

Each capital project submitted by school boards was initially assessed based on the identified "need" to address accommodation pressures caused by increased enrollment. This evaluation was guided by the following metrics and criteria:

Accommodation Pressure Metric:

- Current utilization (SY 2023-24) had to 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, had to reach 100% or higher by year five, after the project's completion.

Due to limited funding, projects within this metric threshold were reviewed to determine if temporary accommodations were available or alternative accommodation solutions. The ministry recognizes that many of these projects that were not funded will be ongoing priorities for school boards and support

an updated business case submission in future Capital Priorities rounds.

Facility Condition/Replacement Projects:

Projects involving a replacement solution were not recommended if the resulting Net Present Value (NPV) was negative, as communicated with the sector.

In addition, projects were assessed for other policy-related needs such as French Language Access, health and safety considerations, or projects with limited temporary accommodation options that were outside of the metric threshold. As well, site readiness factors were applied to ensure recommended projects would progress in a timely manner.

After careful review of your board's submissions, none of the projects submitted by your board were approved. Please see **Appendix A** for a complete list of the submissions, results and the rationale.

Ministry staff are committed to working collaboratively with your school board to provide guidance and respond to questions as your school board considers the development of future capital plans, including future requests for Capital Priorities funding. While your projects may not have been approved for funding at this time, the ministry encourages your board to continue to develop its top priority projects. As the ministry continues to consider build readiness in its evaluation process, well developed projects will receive priority consideration for future funding approvals. This includes identification and acquisition of sites and the development of design plans.

If you would like to schedule a meeting with ministry staff to discuss your Capital Priorities Program requests or if you have any questions, please contact the Capital Analyst assigned to your board. The list can be found at https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Contact_Us.htm.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your assistance and support throughout this process and look forward to continuing to work with your board.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Didem Proulx
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

Attached:
Appendix A – Capital Submission Results

C: Patrizia Del Riccio, Director, Capital Program Branch
Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division
Ryan Putnam, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Toronto Catholic District School Board
Derek Boyce, Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Commercial Officer, Toronto Catholic District School Board
Shawna Cambell, EY Lead Supervisory Officer
Karen Gray, Director, Service System Planning and Policy, City of Toronto