



2025/2026 Budget

June 10, 2025

June 24, 2025

Bill 98:

Better Schools & Students Outcomes Act

Early Reading: Ontario is introducing comprehensive early reading actions that include universal screening for students in Year 2 of Kindergarten to Grade 2, with intensive supports for students who need them.

Math: Ontario will continue its focus in math in response to the latest EQAO results to support students in meeting provincial math standards.

Job-readiness: Ontario is strengthening co-operative education opportunities and expanding job skill programs to ensure students have opportunities for hands-on learning in a variety of careers, including in the skilled trades.

Mental Health: Mental Health workers partner with educators, principals, and families to support students' continued learning and to provide direct early interventions to students struggling with mild to moderate mental health issues.

Human Rights and Inclusion: The ministry will continue to work with its partners in establishing and maintaining a world-class education system that sets high expectations for every student, and that will help to ensure equality of opportunity, meaningful experiences, and successful outcomes.

Bill 98:

Better Schools & Students Outcomes Act

Special Education: Ontario will continue to support students with special education needs and disabilities, so they have access to the supports they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Student Safety: Supports for students to help them address personal and academic challenges hindering learning achievement, as well as resources for youth to create meaningful connections and a sense of belonging within their schools and communities.

Student Transportation: The government is continuing with the new benchmark-based funding formula for student transportation.

Capital: Focusing on how to build modern schools faster, better utilize school capacity and enhance accountability & transparency.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

Together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

Vision

We are leaders in learning, inspiring success for all students, by reaching minds and touching hearts.

Values

Humility

Bravery

Honesty

Wisdom

Truth

Respect

Love

Resilience

Equity

Community

Board Priorities

- Student Success and Achievement
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Truth and Reconciliation
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Environmental Education and Sustainability
- Equity and Inclusive Education

Ministry Priorities

- Literacy
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
- Indigenous Education
- French-Language Education
- Supporting Vulnerable Students
- Mental Health
- Student Readiness
- Operations

Limitations Set by the Ministry of Education

Education funding recognizes that school boards need flexibility to decide how best to allocate resources within their budgets.

At the same time there are limitations:

Provincial curriculum/programs shall be delivered to students.

Class size targets for both elementary and secondary classes are to be met.

Funding provided for Special Education shall be used for that purpose. Unspent funds must be placed in a Special Education reserve.

Funding intended for new schools or additions and for major repairs to schools must be used for those purposes. Unspent funds must be placed in a capital reserve.

School Board Administration and Governance spending shall not exceed the compliance threshold.

Funding under the Responsive Education Programs (REP) must be used as prescribed by the Ministry.

Limitations Set by the Ministry of Education

Budgets must balance.

The use of reserve funds (Accumulated Surplus) to balance the budget is limited to the lessor of:

- the Board's Accumulated Surplus for the preceding year, and
- 1 percent of the Board's operating revenue

Ministry approval is required for the use of reserves that are in excess of these limits, prior to final approval of the budget.

2025/2026 Budget Establishment Criteria

Maintain current programs and services.

2025/2026 revised expenditure budget as a base, adjusted:

To exclude 2024/2025 one-time budgets

To include:

- the terms and conditions of employment in the extended collective agreements
- inflationary pressure
- statutory increases
- the 2025/2026 Special Education budget recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) May 7, 2025 and approved by the Board May 20, 2025

Enrolment

Average Daily Enrolment (ADE)

	25/26 Budget	24/25 Revised Estimates	Difference
Elementary	9,333.0	9,441.0	(108.0)
Secondary	4,766.0	4,763.5	2.5
High Credit	15.0	17.0	(2.0)
Adult Day School	82.0	83.0	(1.0)
Total	14,196.0	14,304.5	(108.5)

*Oct 31st Count

Enrolment projections:

Consider historic retention rates, the flow through of each grade, and information on population growth or decline.

2025/2026 Budget

Facilities In Operation

Elementary Schools	29
Secondary Schools	9
Administration	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>39</u>

Notes:

Plus other programs - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program (CAMHP), Cecil Facer School, N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre, Children's Treatment Centre, O'Connor Park, Applied Behaviour Analysis program, Restart, SHILO, Attendance Centre, Mishk-Odeh-Wendam, Northern Support Initiative, Frank Flowers School and Barrydowne College, operating at Cambrian College.

Core Education Funding (CEF)

Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF)

The classroom Staffing Fund supports the majority of staff that work in classrooms, including teachers, early childhood educators (ECEs) in kindergarten classrooms and some educational assistants (EAs). Note that the primary source of funding for EAs is the Special Education Fund.

Learning Resources Fund (LRF)

The Learning Resources Fund supports the costs of staffing typically required outside of the classroom to support student needs, such as teacher-librarians / library technicians, guidance counselors, mental health workers, school management staff as well as non-staffing classroom costs, such as learning materials and classroom equipment.

Special Education Fund (SEF)

The Special Education Fund supports positive outcomes for students with special education needs. This funding is for the additional costs of the programs, services and/or equipment these students may require.

Core Education Funding (CEF)

School Facilities Fund (SFF)

The School Facilities Fund supports operating (including cleaning and utilities), maintaining, renovating and renewing school buildings. It also provides additional support for students in rural and northern communities.

Student Transportation Fund (STF)

The Student Transportation Fund supports the transportation of students between home and school.

School Board Administration Fund (SBAF)

The School Board Administration Fund supports governance and administration costs for the operation of the school board, including its board offices and facilities, as well as for parent engagement activities.

Adjustments to Core Education Funding

Interim Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Funding Approach

In the 2025–26 school year, the ministry is continuing the SIP funding approach by using an interim formula to calculate the amount for each school board, as they continue to work towards a new approach for the future. Further details were provided this year regarding the calculation, which includes a base amount plus a per-pupil Exceptional Circumstances amount.

Modernization of Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP) Funding

Based on feedback from education sector partners across the province, the changes implemented are to better meet the needs of students, improve student outcomes, enhance access and the quality of education programs and reduce administrative burden.

There are now two funding components. The ECPP component and the Care and Treatment Education Programs (CTEP) component. The latter consists of a base amount plus a per-pupil amount. Further details have yet to be provided, but the Ministry has advised that this information should be available in the near future.

Regional Internal Audit Team (RIAT) Investment

Additional funding of \$2 million, province-wide, is being provided to enhance school board financial management through the RIAT component.

Adjustments to Core Education Funding

Compensation

- Increases that reflect the final year of the 2022-2026 collective agreements and the third year of the 2023-2027 Principal and Vice-Principal terms and conditions, including:
 - \$1 per hour increase in education workers salaries
 - 2.5% increase in teacher, principal and vice principal salaries
 - Net neutral change, where supply teacher benchmarks are increased but offset by the reduction in occasional teacher top up funding from 2024-25

Non-Staff Benchmarks

The ministry is providing a 2 per cent cost update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e., electricity, natural gas, maintenance/repair costs, insurance, and other costs).

Census Data

This is the second year of the five-year phase-in of updates reflecting the 2021 Statistics Canada census data, affecting components such as Remote and Rural, Demographic Needs and the Special Education Statistical Prediction Model.

Adjustments to Core Education Funding

Student Transportation

The ministry is continuing with the new funding framework for Student Transportation Grant, including:

- updates to funding benchmarks to support the increasing costs of transportation services
- funding to cover costs associated with the non-refundable portion of HST
- top-up funding to ensure that each school board receives an increase of at least 2.5% over the 2024-25 initial allocation
- continued focus on optimization of transportation routing

CAPITAL

School Condition Improvement (SCI) & School Renewal Allocation (SRA)

The Ministry will invest \$1.4 billion in 2025/2026.

Temporary Accommodations

The Ministry will invest \$70 million in 2025/2026.

An additional \$545 million is allocated to support Accessibility Improvements and the replacement of Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC). No further details are available at this time.

School Renewal and School Condition index funding will now be recovered at the end of the province's year end (March 31), in the third year after the funding was in effect. Historically, the amounts were allowed to rollover indefinitely.

Responsive Education Programs (REP)

Funding outside of the CEF announced to date: \$

Coop Education Supports for Students with Disabilities	69,000
Critical Physical Security Infrastructure	79,900
Early Reading Enhancements: Screening Tools	78,600
Education Staff to Support Reading Interventions	533,000
Entrepreneurship Education Pilot Projects	20,000
Health Resources, Training and Supports	10,600
Indigenous Graduation Coaches	282,800
Learn and Work Bursary	20,000
Licenses for Reading Intervention Supports	134,400
Math Recovery Plan: Board Math Lead	166,600
Digital Math Tools	100,100
School Math Facilitator	760,600
Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program	300,476
Skilled Trades Bursary Program	12,000
Special Education Additional Qualifications (AQ) Subsidy for Educators	10,000
Special Education Needs Transition Navigators	77,200
Summer Learning Special Education Supports	105,200
Summer Mental Health Supports	147,700
Experiential Professional Learning for Guidance	30,200
Mental Health Strategy Supports - Emerging Needs	10,800
Transportation and Stability Supports (CIYC)	155,500
Total	3,104,676

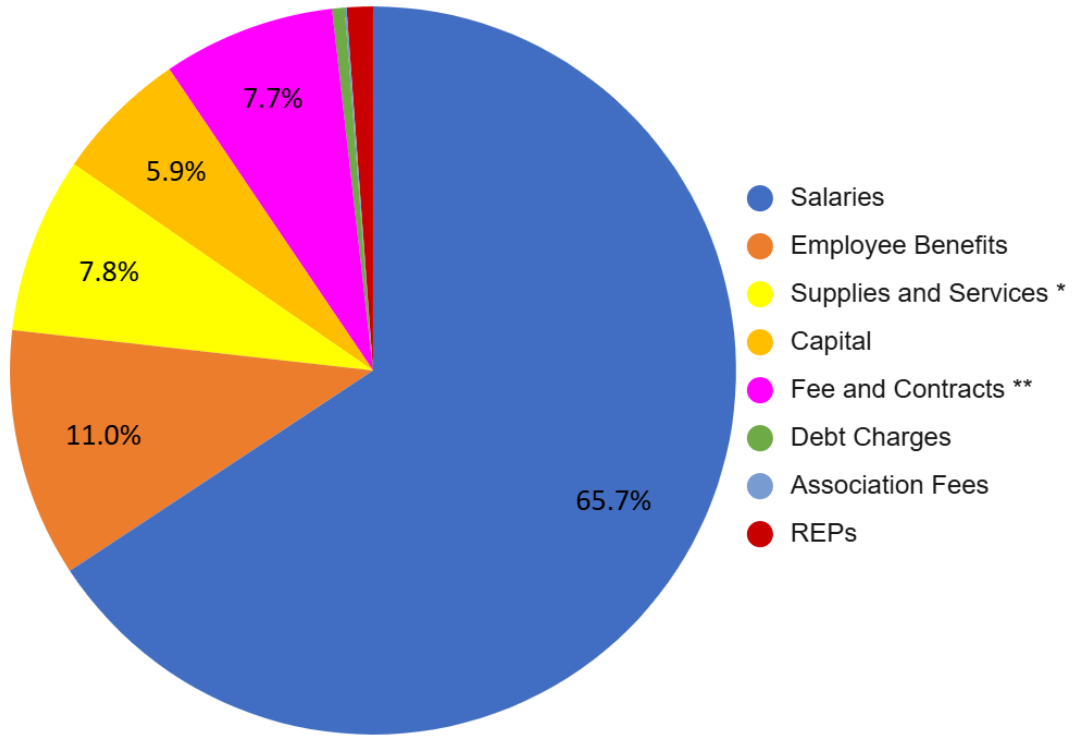
2025/2026 Budget Personnel Complement

	25/26 Budget	24/25 Revised Estimates	Difference
Elementary Teachers	675.0	678.5	-3.5
Secondary Teachers	357.0	352.5	4.5
Classroom Consultants & Coordinators	22.0	21.0	1.0
Principals: Schools	41.0	39.0	2.0
System	8.0	6.0	2.0
Vice-Principals	36.0	37.0	-1.0
Secretaries: School, G. Ewin Centre	92.0	89.9	2.1
Student Services	43.5	42.0	1.5
Noon Hour Supervisors	24.0	24.2	-0.2
Early Childhood Educators	56.0	58.0	-2.0
Educational Assistants	237.5	229.0	8.5
Technicians	23.0	22.0	1.0
Custodial and Maintenance	156.2	155.1	1.1
Board Office	43.2	42.0	1.2
Total	1,814	1,796	18.2

Revenue (\$,000)

	25/26 Budget	24/25 Revised	Difference	
Classroom Staffing Fund	107,403	106,016	1,387	1.3%
Learning Resources Fund	37,383	36,736	646	1.8%
Special Education Fund	42,632	41,176	1,456	3.5%
School Facilities Fund	19,839	19,519	319	1.6%
Student Transportation Fund	17,104	16,752	352	2.1%
School Board Administration Fund	6,141	5,716	425	7.4%
Total Core Ed	230,501	225,916	4,585	2.0%
Capital and Replacements				
School Renewal / temporary accommodation	3,734	3,576	158	4.4%
School Condition Improvement	12,286	12,063	223	1.8%
Debt Charges	1,465	1,572	(107)	(6.8%)
Total Allocation	247,987	243,127	4,859	2.0%
Other				
First Nations - Education Service Agreements	9,428	9,027		
Miscellaneous	1,791	1,683		
Responsive Education Programs	3,105	3,080		
Total Revenues before Reserves/Deferred	262,310	256,917		
Reserve Funds/Deferred Revenue				
Student Focused Initiatives	36	76		
Indigenous Education	1,500	(78)		
Support for Students	5	(179)		
School Based Initiatives	71			
Targeted Student Supports	-	1,568		
Special Education	2,150	3,657		
School Renewal	(121)	3,048		
Student Mental Health	433	127		
FSL Areas of Intervention	167	(78)		
Accumulated Surplus	(151)	(430)		
Total Revenue	266,400	264,628		

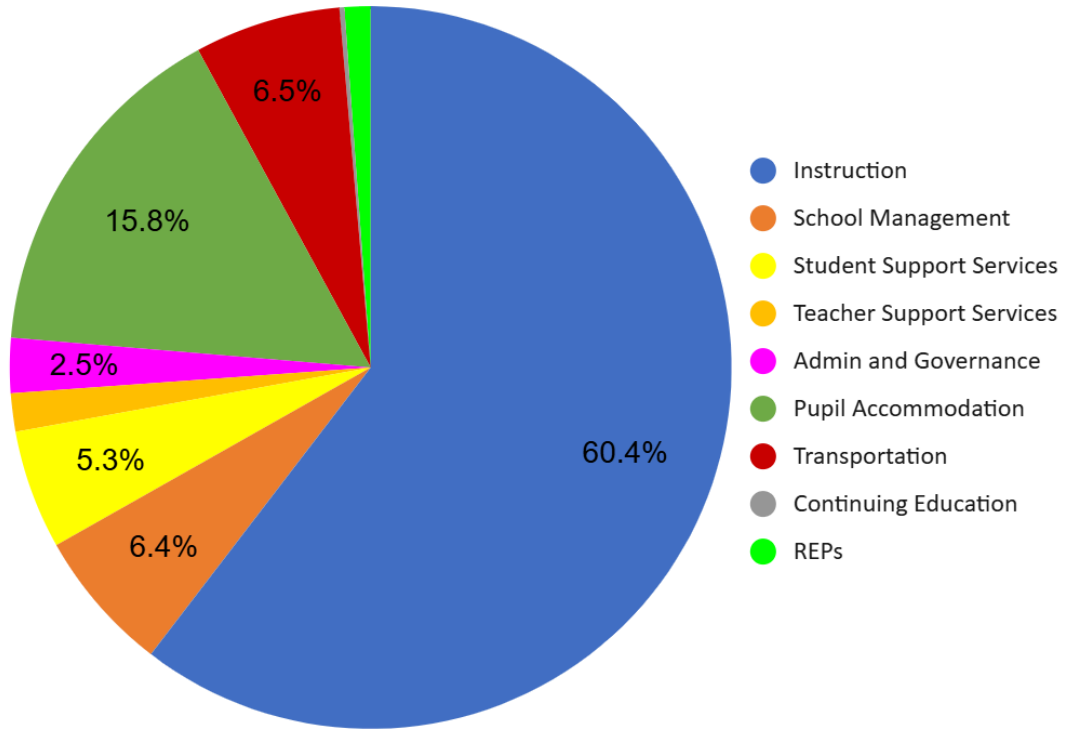
2025/2026 Budget Expenses by Object



	25/26 Budget (\$,000)	24/25 Revised Estimates
Salaries	175,097	170,318
Employee Benefits	29,425	29,477
Supplies and Services*	20,830	20,414
Capital and Replacements	15,785	18,559
Fees and Contracts**	20,452	20,855
Debt Charges	1,484	1,699
Association Fees	223	225
Responsive Education Programs	3,105	3,080
	266,400	264,628

*Major components: Facilities operations and maintenance costs, school budgets, and computers in schools. **Includes transportation.

2025/2026 Budget Expenses by Function



	25/26 Budget (\$,000)	24/25 Revised Estimates
Instruction	160,957	157,583
School Management	17,051	16,487
Student Support Services	14,201	14,249
Teacher Support Services	4,558	4,018
Administration and Governance	6,538	6,177
Pupil Accommodation	41,967	44,705
Transportation	17,433	17,770
Continuing Education	589	559
Responsive Education Programs	3,105	3,080
Total	266,400	264,628

Reporting and Accountability

The Ministry has established the following dates for submission of financial reports:

June 30, 2025	Estimates for 2025/2026
November 14, 2025	Financial Statements for 2024/2025
December 15, 2025	Revised Estimates for 2025/2026
May 15, 2026	Financial Report for September 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026