

Report 26-003

2026-27 Budget Process

March 2, 2026



Budget Process Environmental Scan

- **The Ministry placed the Board under supervision following a third-party investigation that concluded there was a deterioration of the accumulated surplus following a series of deficits and that there was no plan to restore financial stability**
- **The goal is to develop a budget that restores the Board's financial health**
- **The budget must be approved by June 30, 2026**



Primary Budget Considerations

- **Current financial position**
- **Timing of Ministry funding announcements in relation to setting academic staffing levels**
- **Actual enrolment has been lower than projected in recent year – conservative approach is needed**
- **Inflationary pressures on supplies and services**
- **Student-Focused Resource Optimization Project (SFROP) with the goal of maximizing student achievement and well-being while restoring financial health and stability**



Starting Point - Compliance Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)

	2024-25 Actual \$ Millions	2025-26 Projection \$ Millions	Projected Change \$ Millions *
Unrestricted Accumulated Deficit	(12.1)	(21.2)	(9.1)
Restricted for Committed Capital	14.6	12.1	(2.5)
Total	2.5	(9.1)	(11.5)

* does not add due to rounding

The District is required to restrict an amount equal to the cumulative unamortized investment in non-Ministry funded capital assets.

The unrestricted accumulated deficit means that there is no capacity to support spending beyond available revenues. This amount must be eliminated and grown into an accumulated surplus.



Continued Credibility Assessments

- **A budget credibility assessment is an evaluation of whether planned revenues and expenses are reasonable and align with anticipated results.**
- **Objective is to improve accuracy, transparency and accountability.**
- **This will guide the development of the 2026-27 budget estimates.**
- **Establish multiyear budget projections to move from reactive to proactive planning.**



Declining Enrolment

- Enrolment growth provides flexibility, reduced enrolment reduces this flexibility.
- Preliminary projections for the coming year shows a steady decline, consistent with the experience of many Ontario school boards.
- The trends identify a need to use more conservative enrolment estimates.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Elementary Actual	51,229.27	50,831.3	50,144.50
Secondary Actual	24,653.63	25,003.47	25,224.62
Actual / Projected	75,882.90	75,834.77	75,369.12
Approved Budget	76,752.96	76,574.45	76,061.64
<i>Decrease Relative to the Approved</i>	870.06	739.68	692.52



Public Consultation

- **The Board Supervisor is committed to engaging with students, staff, parents and the broader school community.**
- **Budget information will soon be available on the [engage.OCDSB.ca](https://engage.ocdsb.ca) website.**
- **A questionnaire is being developed to help with the public engagement.**
- **Audit Committee to meet in April, May and June.**

