

PUBLIC EDUCATION EMERGENCY MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

8:00PM - 9:00PM

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom



Kristyn Wong-Tam
MPP, Toronto Centre



Deborah Williams
Trustee, TDSB Ward 10
University-Rosedale and
Toronto Centre



Jessica Bell
MPP, University - Rosedale

A G E N D A

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome & Introductions

Overview – Current Situation

TDSB Budget – Myths vs Facts

Questions & Comments

How YOU Can Take Action!

Land Acknowledgement



"We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples"

"Nous reconnaissons que nous sommes accueillis sur les terres des Mississaugas des Anichinabés, de la Confédération Haudenosaunee et du Wendat. Nous voulons également reconnaître la pérennité de la présence des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuit."



Welcome & Introductions



Quick Facts in Focus

Funding Canada's Largest School Board



The TDSB operates close to 600 schools and the size of its student population and operations means there are significant needs. We have budgeted for a **\$28.0 million deficit** in the current year and are required by the Ministry of Education to eliminate this by 26-27. **A reduction of this scale will involve cuts across the entire system which will affect current programs offered by the Board.**

TDSB Budget Process

The 2025-2026 TDSB Budget process is well underway. As you know, we continue to **advocate for the Ministry of Education** to support our students and staff by providing the necessary funding **to cover the actual costs** of delivering education in Toronto. For more information on the current budget pressures faced by the board, please see this [budget fact sheet](#). As always, we will continue to provide updated information throughout the budget process on the TDSB website at www.tdsb.on.ca/budget.

Funding

In recent years, funding for the TDSB has not kept pace with costs. The TDSB received approximately:

- **\$293.2** million in funding to maintain buildings in 2023-24, while spending exceeded **\$447.1** million in the same year as the maintenance backlog grew by approx. **\$70** million
- **\$43.7** million is the cumulative unfunded portion of statutory benefits (e.g. for CPP & EI) for 2024-25
- **\$433.6** million was the funding received for special education, but TDSB spent **\$472.1** million
- **\$14.3** million is the funding received to support student and staff mental health, safety & well-being, while spending was **\$25.2** million

Core Education Funding vs. Inflation



Learn More



Follow along for more details on the TDSB's annual budget.



Budget Pressures

In recent years, the Board has faced growing pressure to spend more than what has been allocated by the Ministry to support students, staff and communities. Some areas facing funding strain include:



Resources to support student and staff mental health, safety and well-being



Unfunded statutory benefit increases



Supply staffing costs (teachers and educational assistants)



Accessible schools for students and staff



Information technology supports to support student achievement (e.g. devices, infrastructure and cyber security)



Improvements to school ventilation



Supporting the community use of schools through permits



Maintenance of existing schools and the renewal of aging infrastructure

How School Boards Are Funded

School boards receive most of their funding from the provincial government. A large portion of this funding is allocated to cover school staffing for teachers, Early Childhood Educators and principals, while other staffing and costs receive targeted funding from the Ministry of Education.



Funding Gaps & Pressures



TDSB Operating Budget: The Funding Gaps

Funding does not fully meet the needs



\$62 million shortfall
for elementary teachers



\$26 million shortfall
for secondary teachers



\$20 million shortfall for
early childhood educators



\$18 million shortfall
for school office support

Data from the TDSB's 2024-25 Financial Facts.



TDSB Operating Budget: External Pressures

Budget factors beyond the school board's control



- Mounting costs to maintain outdated buildings



- Funding has not kept pace with increased costs of construction



- Rising utility costs

- Managing costs of benefits

- Forecasted enrollment declines due to federal policy and pre-school age population changes

Source: TDSB's 2024-25 Financial Facts.



TDSB Operating Budget: The Pressures

Pressure to meet demands on services and infrastructure



\$4.45 billion shortfall to maintain existing and older school buildings, with rising construction costs (as of January, 2025)



\$43.7 million is the unfunded portion of statutory benefits (e.g. for CPP & EI)

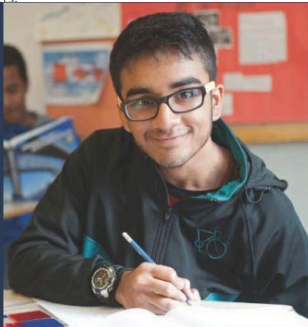


\$38.5 million shortfall to support special education



\$10.9 million shortfall to support student and staff mental health, safety and well-being

Data from the TDSB's 2024-25 Financial Facts.



Underfunding of Public Education



TDSB Operating Budget: At a Glance



**High-level breakdown
of the TDSB's
operating budget.**

Instruction 72.1%

**School Operations and
Building Renewal 9.7%**

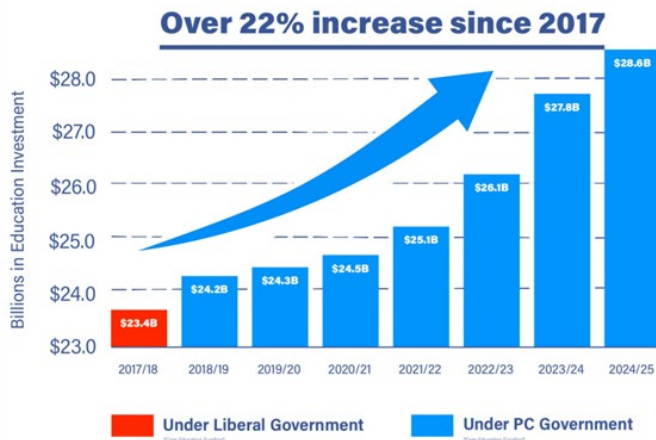
Administration 16.1%

Transportation 2.1%

The Financial Accountability Office of Ontario (FAO) projected in November 2022 annual **shortfalls in education funding** totaling **\$6.0 billion** through 2027-2028. The Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA), representing English public district school boards and public school authorities across Ontario, also notes this chronic funding gap and the impact of inflation outpacing funding. They also identify the lack of funding to support a much-needed learning recovery following the COVID pandemic. The Government of Ontario has **not reimbursed TDSB** for **\$61 million** spent from reserves during the pandemic.

The Growing Funding Gap in Public Education

Largest Investment in public education in Ontario History



TDSB is the largest and one of the most diverse school boards in Canada, serving **239,000 students** plus **100,000 adult/continuing education learners** in **579 schools**. Adjusted for **inflation**, per-pupil funding is lowest in recent history. There is a funding **gap of** about **\$1,500 per student**. [OPSBA](#) estimates a **gap of** about **\$776.41 per student**. Just like for families and businesses, all costs in school board budgets are going up due to inflation. As **we have not seen a corresponding increase in funding**, there will be an impact on students. It's not just school boards that are impacted by these inflationary pressures – staff federations, People for Education, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives have all noted that the past few years of funding increases do not cover costs, leading to cuts at the school board level.

MYTH

The TDSB
refuses to
address
“overspending”.

MYTH

The TDSB
refuses to
address
“overspending”.

FACT

Ministry funding for Special Education is detached from reality, with the TDSB spending **\$38.5 million more** than it receives to meet the needs of students.

MYTH

The TDSB
refuses to
address
"overspending".

FACT

A total of **71 of the 72**
school boards
"overspend" on special
education – the
underfunding in special
education is over \$850
million.

MYTH

The TDSB
refuses to
address
“**overspending**”.

FACT

At TDSB, in the 2024-2025,
the provincial **underfunding
for statutory benefits** (CPP
and EI) is **\$35.2 million**.
2025-2026 underfunding for
statutory benefits (CPP and
EI) will be **\$43.7 million**.

MYTH

The TDSB
refuses to
address
“**overspending**”.

FACT

The Ministry could easily fix this and **lift the moratorium** on school closures that has been in place since 2017. Lifting the moratorium would give flexibility to right-size our system.

MYTH

The Minister of Education suggests the TDSB is somehow attacking students, parents and teachers as part of our budget.

MYTH

The Minister of Education suggests the TDSB is somehow attacking students, parents and teachers as part of our budget.

FACT

The **Education Act** requires boards to pass balanced budgets. Severe underfunding across the school board sector is creating proposed deficit budgets in **42 of 72 boards**.

MYTH

The Minister of Education suggests the TDSB is somehow attacking students, parents and teachers as part of our budget.

FACT

Ministry funding for Special Education is inadequate, with the TDSB spending **\$38.5 million more** than received. Overall, **71 of 72 boards** exceed provincial funding to meet special education needs.

MYTH

The Minister of Education suggests the TDSB is somehow attacking students, parents and teachers as part of our budget.

FACT

Trustees have maintained pools, outdoor education and Itinerant Music Instructors because **we support students, parents and teachers.**

FACT

We'll continue to fight to maintain these valuable programs and services for our students, it's what parents expect of us and **it's what students deserve**. They should be fully funded by the Ministry as they directly affect student health and well-being.

MYTH

The Ontario Government has increased investment in education.

MYTH

The Ontario Government has increased investment in education.

FACT

The Ontario Government has **not** kept up with inflation. In fact, there is an **estimated \$1,500 shortfall in per-student** provincial funding.

MYTH

The Ontario Government has increased investment in education.

FACT

The Financial Accountability Office (FAO) reported in 2024 that spending on education 2019-2023 **decreased from 24% of the provincial budget to 18%.**

Minister of Education Reviews and Investigations

On April 23, 2025 the Minister of Education **announced** the launch of **financial investigations** at the **Ottawa-Carleton District School Board**, the **Toronto Catholic District School Board** and the **Toronto District School Board** regarding ongoing financial deficit and spending concerns. The investigators will validate the school boards' current financial positions and present a report on their findings to the Minister of Education. The Minister is appointing a **supervisor** to oversee the **Thames Valley District School Board** and requiring the **Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board** to submit an implementation plan to meet the Ministry's fiscal and governance expectations.

2025-2026 Budget Development

The **Core Education funding** for **2025-2026** has not yet been **announced**. When it is, staff will update the financial projections and inform Trustees. While a number of options have been brought forward for consideration, it will ultimately be up to school Trustees to make any final decisions as part of the annual [budget process](#), with a final decision expected in late June.

Each year, we consult with school communities to seek their input to support the process. Community consultations are integral for Trustees as we examine the many paths to balance the budget this year.

Schedule for 2025-26 Budget Development (View [agendas here](#))

Date	Type of Meeting	Purpose
June 4, 2025	Regular FBEC	•Approval of 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budgets
June 18, 2025	Board	•Approval of 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budgets

2025-2026 Budget Development

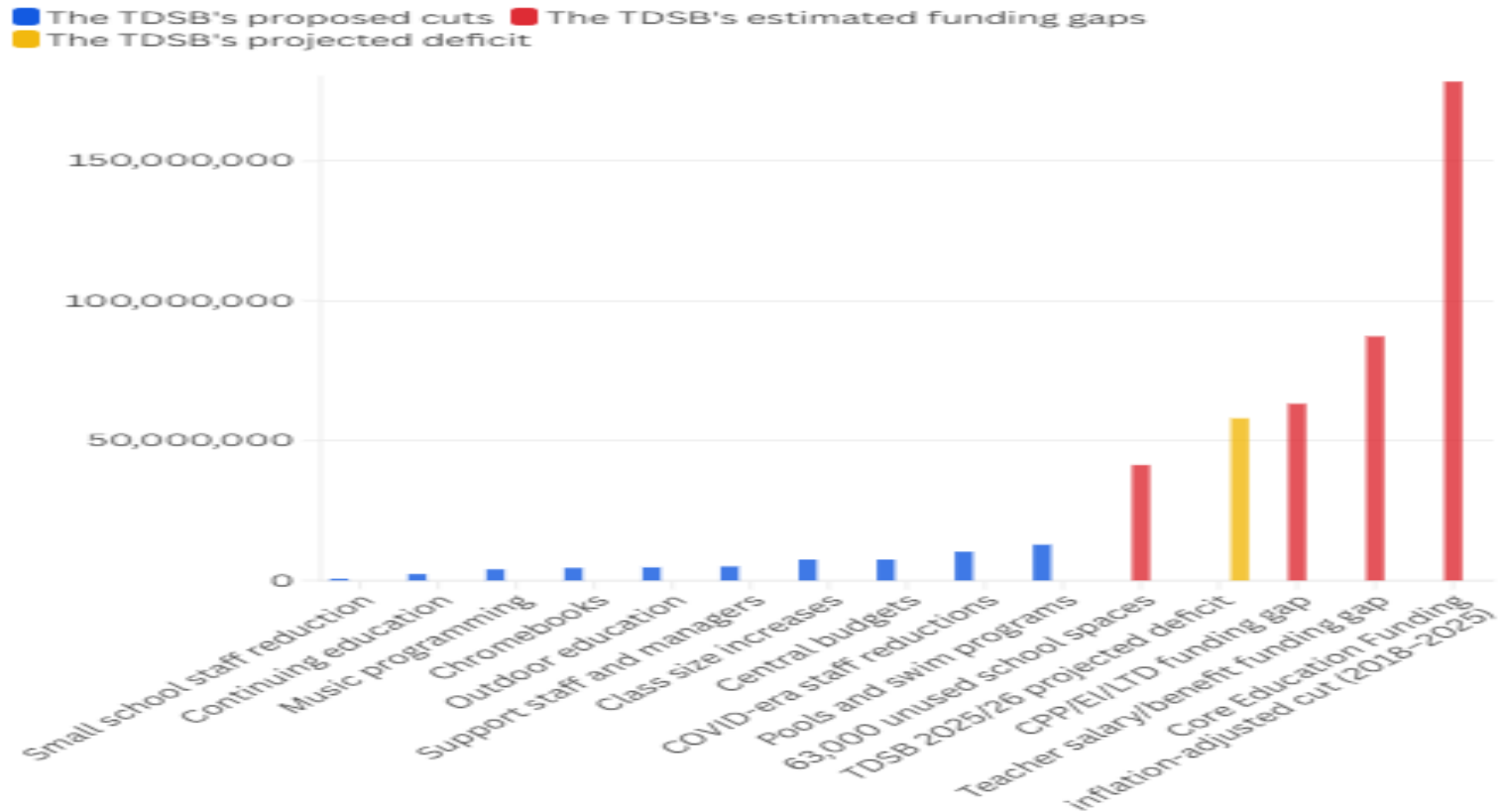
TDSB's **2024-2025 operating budget** is **\$3.5 billion**. TDSB is facing a projected structural **deficit** of approximately **\$58 million** for the **2025-2026** school year, which is adjusted down from **\$70.3 million** with the elimination of the carbon tax. In March, staff identified a number of areas where funding and the expenditures did not align. A [report](#) with these details was released at the Board's Finance, Budget and Enrollment Committee (FBEC) meeting earlier this year. For the list of pools see agenda pages 29-31 of the [report](#).

Total of Proposed Options to Balance:

Pools and Swim Programming.....	12,800,000
Renewed Music Programming.....	4,000,000
1:1 Devices.....	4,500,000
Outdoor Education.....	4,700,000
Continuing Education.....	2,300,000
Alignment of Class Size to Collective Agreements and Regulations.....	7,500,000
Reduction of Positions Originally Funded by Eliminated One-Time Funding...	10,300,000
New Procedures and Improved Support for Employees.....	5,000,000
Commitment to Nurturing Local Schools.....	600,000
Central Budgets.....	7,500,000

\$59,200,000

Proposed TDSB cuts vs. funding gaps



Source: TDSB proposed options to balance, TDSB Financial Facts 2024-2025, TDSB Structural Deficit Update 2025-26 • Core Education Funding gap calculated by Ricardo Tranjan for The Trillium
Chart: Jack Hauen

*A Flourish chart

Questions & Comments

WHAT CAN
YOU DO?

Let's Take
Action!

- ☐ Sign the Petition
- ☐ Write to the Education Minister and Premier
cc: Your [MPP](#) and [Trustee](#)
- ☐ Share Resources
- ☐ Post on Social Media
- ☐ Join the TORONTO EDUCATION ADVOCACY NETWORK [WhatsApp group](#)
- ☐ Attend the Rally at Queen's Park on Saturday May 24, 2025 at 12:00 noon

Call to Action

Write & Sign the Petition

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Paul Calandra,

Minister of Education

Paul.Calandraco@pc.ola.org
minister.edu@ontario.ca

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Chandra Pasma,

Education Critic

cpasma-qp@ndp.on.ca

COPY YOUR LOCAL

MPP **Find Your MPP &**

Trustee **Find Your Trustee**

- ✓ *ensure the provincial budget allocates funds to avoid any cuts to education funding in Ontario;*
- ✓ *that the province fully fund statutory benefits (e.g. CPP & EI) of school board budgets;*
- ✓ *restore per student funding lost due to inflation since 2018;*
- ✓ *fix our schools - fund the repair and maintenance backlog;*
- ✓ *the Minister of Education work collaboratively with TDSB to find real solutions to its unique challenges and structural deficit*

SUPPORT OUR KIDS

Rally for Education Funding

Saturday May 24

12-1:30 pm

Queen's Park South Lawn
(111 Wellesley St W)

RSVP here:



Join parents, students, and education workers to send a message to the provincial government that it's time to properly fund education.

Family-friendly, accessible rally.

Bring your kids, your signs, and your voice.

Free
Ice
Cream!

Everyone Welcome!

