



CODE's Statement on the Funding Gap in the 2024-25 Core Education Funding

David DeSantis, CODE Chair and Director, Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic DSB Laura Elliott, CODE, Executive Director

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE), representing the 73 Directors of Education across Ontario's publicly funded school boards recognizes the significant challenges that school boards are facing in executing balance budgets per Ministry requirements. While CODE supports the new streamlined education grant framework based on government priorities, the overall funding provided to boards in these new grants **is insufficient to meet the needs of students.**

The most pressing areas of school board funding gaps have been noted in the following areas:

- Short term supply costs for teacher absences is costing boards **close to double the amount provided by the province.** For example, in 2023-24, it is estimated that boards will receive approximately \$345M and spend \$598M, resulting in a significant shortfall.
- Statuary benefits such as Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Employment Insurance (EI), mandated by the federal government have escalated **without corresponding increases by provincial government grants to school boards.** This gap for Ontario school boards is more than \$100M.
- Transportation costs continue to escalate, without corresponding provincial grants, leaving many boards with significant shortfalls. While there is increased funding for transportation in 2024-25 in recognition of Special Purpose Vehicles as requested by boards, several boards still do not have sufficient funds to cover costs.
- Inflationary costs over a range of budget lines have not kept pace with per pupil funding grants, with an estimated gap of \$776 per student.

Each board also has unique circumstances that will impact its budget and ultimately its students. Many boards are seeing increasing structural deficits as a result of the underfunding. School boards are actively involved in deliberating about the choices it has before them to mitigate the implications of budget cuts to classrooms. Without addressing the sizable gaps in funding that currently exist, the impact on students will be **significant and far reaching.**

CODE will continue to engage in discussions with the Ministry of Education to inform them of the impact on school boards and ensure that all schools in Ontario have the resources and support they need for our students to be successful.