



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

July 22, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs

SUBJECT: **Launch of Capital Priorities Program, Child Care Capital Funding and Review of School Construction Standards**

On July 22, 2019, the Ministry of Education announced the launch of its' Capital Priorities Program first outlined in the provincial Budget. It also issued Ministry Memorandum 2019: B17 that outlines the details of this Capital Priorities Program and School Construction Standards review. This memorandum provides a brief summary of the program and review.

Capital Priorities Program

Funding for capital projects will be allocated on a business case model for new schools, retrofits, and additions that need to be completed by 2023-24 school year. Boards may submit up to 10 urgent capital priority submissions along with the business cases through the School Facilities Inventory System. In addition, the Ministry now requires two template reports that must be submitted in support of each submission.

- Part A—Enrollment and School Capacity Data that provides an overview of the accommodation needs for the project, including schools within the project site; and
- Part B—Written description of the project.

In addition, boards must document efforts made to explore joint-use opportunities for each capital project as part of the business case submission. Boards must also demonstrate a willingness to work with co-terminus boards on joint-use projects.

Boards also have an opportunity to request child care capital funding if local municipal service managers or the local social services administration board supports the need and confirms that the project will not create operational pressures on either of these local organizations.

Boards will also have to seek ministry approval during key project milestones. The ministry is developing options to increase board compliance to the existing capital project approval process.

The submission deadline for capital funding requests is September 30, 2019.

School Construction Standards Review

The review is intended to examine existing cost and space benchmarks and build on the work of the expert panel on Capital Standards in 2010. The ministry will also explore standard designs of new schools while looking for efficiencies in procurement of new school construction.

For further information please see the attached Ministry Memorandum 2019: B17.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.