

Questions and Answers

December 22, 2022 Update

Student Accommodation Planning: Elementary Family of Schools/Port Hope High School

What are the capacities of Port Hope High School, Ganaraska Trail PS, and other local schools?

All On-The-Ground School Capacities for the local schools are [identified in this document](#), which is posted on the school board website's Student Accommodation Planning page for Port Hope High School.

When will the Pupil Accommodation Review pause be lifted; should we wait?

Since June 2017, the Ministry of Education has put a 'pause' on the Pupil Accommodation Review process, which means that school closure and/or consolidations cannot be considered as options to address enrolment, programming or facility challenges. We have not received any indication about when the pause will be lifted.

Can the Town of Port Hope adjust its bylaws to allow for portables at Ganaraska Trail PS, and could this address the increased numbers for a few years?

We have positive relationships with municipal partners at the Municipality of Port Hope and are exploring possible solutions to allow for more portables at Ganaraska Trail PS. If more portables are possible, there are still other considerations such as parking and traffic flow, loss of playground space, and overcrowding of shared facilities (i.e., gymnasium, washrooms, library), etc.

Why didn't you build a larger addition at Ganaraska Trail PS to proactively address the enrolment issues?

The Ministry capital funding formula prescribes how many student spaces can be built, in line with current enrolment, and it does not allow for building extra spaces for potential future enrolment.

If younger students move to Dr. Hawkins Senior PS, how will the school be adapted for the younger grades – to address program, safety, play spaces, materials, etc?

How will child care options be affected by potential changes?

The child care provider operating at Dr. Hawkins Senior PS will be included in the transition process, to ensure child care options continue to be available for families.

Can the existing GTPS building be renovated to accommodate an increase in population?

Capital funding to support new schools, replacement schools, additions and deep retrofits to existing schools is allocated by the provincial government through the Capital Priorities program, an annual process where school boards identify their most urgent pupil accommodation needs.

The Ministry has a fixed capital budget that they allocate to school boards based on their assessment of where the greatest priorities lie across the province. In their review process, the

If nothing changes, what happens in two years?

Enrolment projections indicate that by the 2024-25 school year, the Board would require additional space at Ganaraska Trail PS to accommodate the anticipated enrolment. Although, staff are re-visiting the option of placing additional portables on site with municipal staff, there are other considerations including parking and traffic flow, loss of playground space, overcrowding of shared facilities (i.e., gymnasium, washrooms, library), etc. Enrolment projections indicate that the current enrolment will increase beyond the two-year timeframe, which is why the Board is looking for a more sustainable solution.

Does any scenario take into account other local areas e.g. Cobourg & Port Hope boundaries?

No, there has not been consideration of adjusting Cobourg's boundaries. There is enough space for students within the Port Hope area to find a local solution.

Why do we bus kids to Cobourg?

The students that are bussed to Cobourg from Port Hope are students attending Cobourg Collegiate Institute (CCI) for French Immersion or International Baccalaureate programs. No elementary students are bussed to Cobourg.

Can parents/guardians have a tour of Dr. Hawkins Senior PS to see the physical space?

Once a decision has been made and a plan has been put into place, parents will be invited to see the physical building. This may not happen until the Open House that is typically scheduled during the fall of each school year.

Can we get more support for the Grade 6's with special education needs?

Once an option is selected, we will take steps to ensure a positive transition for all students. This will include considerations such as, what the play areas look like and what structures need to be in place to ensure safety and supervision for all students at all times.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS – OPTION C

Will there be enough room when students move on to high school?

Yes. Port Hope HS has enough available classrooms for the scenarios proposed.

Why isn't George Hamilton being bought back from the town?

There is enough space at existing schools in Port Hope to accommodate the number of students.

Will there be additional bussing costs?

Bussing costs

Where are the students going to play?

In the event that younger students move to Dr. Hawkins Senior PS, we will ensure that students have access to both the pavement and the green spaces on the property at certain times throughout the school day.

Can we have a parent led initiative to improve the green space/playground at Dr. Hawkins Senior PS?

We encourage parents and guardians who want to have a voice in leading an initiative such as improving the green space at a school to reach out to the school principal to have this added to the agenda for School Council meetings.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS – OPTION D

What will happen to Port Hope High School Students?

Port Hope HS students will remain at Port Hope HS and continue to access the classes and rooms that are dedicated to the high school.

Is there enough room to accommodate both elementary and secondary students within Port Hope HS?

Yes. There is sufficient space to accommodate the options proposed.

Can Dr. Hawkins Senior PS support a Grade 5-8 school?

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