



POLICY: Program and Accommodation

REFERENCE NO: P-AD-01

The Greater Essex County District School Board has, as its primary goal, the responsibility to provide educational programs and services of the highest quality, in sustainable facilities conducive to a stimulating learning environment and designed to meet the needs of all pupils, within fiscal parameters. As a school board in Ontario, the GECDSB is responsible for providing schools and facilities for our students and staff that are operated and maintained as effectively and responsibly as possible to support student achievement.

In addition to facilitating the delivery of our Board Mission, the Board will endeavour to optimize the use of its facilities. Various factors beyond the control of the Board impact on this commitment. These factors include declining, increasing, and shifting populations, current funding and operational realities, new provincial legislation and policy, changing educational objectives, and physical limitations with the aging facilities and infrastructure.

In order to maintain our commitment to excellence, it is necessary to monitor and evaluate all schools and facilities on a regular basis. Where enrolment is increasing, the Board must provide adequate student accommodations that may include boundary changes, additional classroom space (temporary or permanent), relocation of some programs (temporary or permanent), and/or blending arrangements. Where enrolment is limited and/or declining, the consequent impact of limited staff, learning resources and program creates difficulties in providing adequate educational programs for students. Under these conditions, the Board will consider program needs, boundary changes, blending arrangements, consolidation, alternate use of surplus space, closure, or other measures. Reviews of consolidations and/or closures will be conducted within the guidelines and expectations of the Ministry of Education.

Our commitment mandates that the detailed study of any school be conducted from the broadest possible system and community perspective. The Board will maintain communication with the community and seek community input.

This policy and regulation reflects the Ministry of Education's Revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, March 2015. This Policy and Regulation will apply to accommodation studies announced after September 30, 2015. Accommodation studies begun prior to this revision will continue to completion under the Student Accommodation Guidelines June 26, 2009.

The following are **not** actions to which the Program and Accommodation Review Policy and Regulation applies:

- Where a replacement school is to be built by the Board on the existing site, or-built or acquired within the existing school attendance boundary, as identified through the school board's policy.
- Where a replacement school is to be built by the Board on the existing site, or built or acquired within the existing school attendance boundary and the school community must be temporarily relocated to ensure the safety of students and staff during the reconstruction, as identified through the school board's policy.
- When a lease for the facility is terminated.
- When the Board plans to relocate a grade(s) or a program(s) in a school year or over a number of school years, where the enrolment constitutes less than 50% of the school's enrolment. This calculation is based on the enrolment of the school at the time of relocation, or the first phase of a relocation carried over a number of school years.
- When a school community must be temporarily relocated to ensure the safety of students during a school's repairs or renovations.
- Where a facility has served as a "holding school" for a school community whose permanent school is over-capacity and/or is under construction or repair.
- Where there are no students enrolled at the school at any time throughout the school year.