

Guiding Principles

To ensure that Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) provides equitable, affordable and sustainable learning facilities, the following LTFMP Guiding Principles have been created. These principles guide and assist in creating the framework for determining the viability of our schools, which is a key component in the development and implementation of the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan. The following guiding principles are consistent with the commitment to provide quality teaching and learning environments that are driven by the needs of students and programs:

1. HWDSB is committed to providing school renewal by optimizing opportunities to invest in improved school facilities.
2. Optimal utilization rates of school facilities is in the range of 90-110%.
3. School facilities reflect both the Elementary and Secondary Program Strategies by providing students access to flexible and specialized learning spaces.
4. The scheduled length of time on a vehicle provided through HWSTS shall not exceed 60 minutes one way.
5. School facilities will enable 21st Century teaching and learning by providing spaces that support collaboration, citizenship, and community.
6. Identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who work, learn, and participate in the HWDSB community and environment, including students, staff, parent(s)/guardian(s), volunteers and visitors to HWDSB and its schools.
7. Promote equity of opportunity and access to board facilities, including schools, for students and the school community.
8. Specific principles related to elementary and secondary panels:

Elementary

- a. School Capacity – optimal school capacity would be 450 to 650 students, which creates two to three classes for each grade.
- b. School Grade/Organization – Kindergarten to Grade 8 facilities.
- c. School Site Size – optimal elementary school site includes play fields, parking lot and building. For new site acquisition, optimal size approximately 6 acres and for existing schools is based on local circumstances.
- d. In dual track schools, enrolment between French Immersion and English track should ensure that the balance supports ideal program delivery. i.e. There should be enough French Immersion enrolment to support a successful program but should not exceed 60%.

Secondary

- a. School Capacity – optimal school capacity would be 1,000 to 1,350 students.
- b. School Site Size – optimal secondary school site includes a sport field, parking lot and building. For new site acquisition, optimal size is approximately 15 acres and for existing schools is based on local circumstances.

***NOTE: The principles are intended to be guides. Local parameters may influence the thresholds above (in #8).**