

Let's Build Schools NOW

In order to alleviate overcrowding, the Province must provide timely capital funding to build new schools/ expansions in Surrey.

Surrey Schools Coalition (SSC) urges the government to follow the District's 5-year [Capital Plan](#), fast-track projects via the Surrey Project Board Office currently awaiting approval, **write a cheque of \$217 million to Surrey School District now**, fully commit and fund \$250-\$350 million of capital projects for the next 3 years, waive district financial contribution for new schools/ expansions, fund Surrey's operating cost of \$4.2 million on portables out of a special "growth fund" until schools are built. The diversion of \$4.2 million from local budgets means fewer resources (programming, teachers, library resources, computers, technology, gym equipment, musical instruments) for students.

Surrey has been growing fast and outpacing the rate schools is being built. Schools are overcrowded (325 portables) and over-capacity. Surrey has been waiting for schools to be built. **Surrey NEEDS money to build schools NOW.** Even if funding is approved and building starts today, it will be another 4 years before our kids will step inside a school.

What can parents do? Schools funding is a provincial responsibility. The Province is currently setting their 2018 budget. Surrey schools have been doing MORE with LESS for a long time. Surrey needs to be UNITED in our voice so that the Premier, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Education, MLAs and Treasury Board hear us LOUD & CLEAR. **1. Get informed. 2. Phone or write them NOW.**

Backgrounder:

SSC had meetings with all Surrey MLAs (both NDP and Liberal) over the last 12 months and most recently with Surrey NDP MLAs on October 21, 2017. The MLAs understood Surrey's growth issues and that it's student population will grow an average of 1200 students per year. SSC was encouraged by the September Budget update to adhere to a previously announced \$217 million to fund capital projects in Surrey, create 5,200 spaces, and establish a Surrey Project Board (Province, SD36, and City of Surrey) Office. One project for a Clayton Elementary school worth \$26 million (SD 36 had to contribute \$4.3 million) was approved against this \$217million. The district has a five-year capital plan to expand or build 22 new schools at a cost of more than \$517 million, just to address a current capacity squeeze that gets worse every year. **It takes 4 to 5 years to build a school.** Projects on the District's capital plan needs to be approved, fast-tracked and start building now. With any delays, land, construction and labour costs will inevitably be higher.

Surrey's high growth areas: East Clayton, South Newton and Grandview areas are currently experiencing substantial growth. The highest growth catchment areas' 5 secondary schools: Sullivan Heights, Clayton Heights, Lord Tweedsmuir, Semiahmoo, and Earl Marriott Secondary and their 33 feeder schools enrolled 5,005 students more than its capacity of 17,902. It is 128% overcapacity. Enrollment of 22907 students in Surrey's schools is more than the entire Langley school district (21,586 students in 41 schools in 2016-17). These schools are home to 57% or 185 of Surrey's 325 portables. For example, Lord Tweedsmuir's enrollment is at 2036, overcapacity at 146% with 18 portables. Its student enrollment is expected to grow to 2300 students with 23 portables.

Handouts:

Contact List of MLAs and Treasury Board
Surrey School District's 2018-19 5-year [Capital Plan](#)
List of Surrey SD36 Schools, Enrolment/ Capacity and Portables
List of Surrey SD36 Schools Closed to Out of Catchment



Surrey District Parents Advisory Council



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