



**Guiding Principles for Decision Making
Budget Cycle 2024-2025**

The Board of Education will accept and carry out its responsibility and accountability in approving the annual budget.

In collaboration with senior management, the Board of Education has developed the following guiding principles which, in their entirety, will ensure the best educational and financial decisions for our students.

The Board of Education and senior management are committed to basing the budget process and decisions on the following guiding principles:

We will use a budget development process that is respectful, open and consultative with all educational partners: employees, parents, schools, and the community.

We will ensure that resources, whether they are human, material or technological, are allocated to best support student learning.

We will be comprehensive and open when communicating budget information; we will provide all budget facts.

We will ensure that budget decisions reflect the District's Strategic Plan and District Priorities (Learning and Support Services).

We will plan annually to manage the contingency reserve level, allowing us to ensure operational effectiveness and to manage the risks toward our school district and student learning.

We will ensure that school district initiatives not within our K-12 mandate are at least cost-neutral.

We will continuously strive to achieve efficiencies as a school district.

We will continue to build student success through the attraction, development and retention of employees who share our values of learning, collegiality and respect.

We will approve a budget with integrity, taking into account the elements of fairness and equity.

** Examples of school district initiatives not within our K-12 mandate would be education services identified as outside our mandate under the School Act and our core services. Examples of such programming includes the international program.*

*Approved by Board Motion
Date: February 27, 2024*