

Enrolment Projection Methodology

Enrolment projection calculations are comprised of two main components - the historic school community data and new residential development student data. Enrolment projection software (Paradigm STGI - SPS Plus) allows staff to analyze historical enrolment trends and examine yield rates (by dwelling type) of residential development when projecting enrolments. The software analyzes and summarizes the grade by grade, year by year, progression of students. Each school and community exhibits different trends or movements which are used to create retention rates for each grade at each school. The retention rates capture any gains or losses in enrolment that a school may experience as students move from one grade to another. Retention rate methodology is a common practice in Ontario School Boards.

New residential development forecasts allow planning staff the ability to estimate the number of students generated by new development. Planning staff apply historical student yields (by unit type) to municipally approved development to project the estimated numbers of students generated by housing units. The yields are broken down by housing types which include single-detached, semi-detached, townhome and apartment. Each community has its own unique yield. Historical yields are determined using Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) data and historical student data. The MPAC data indicates the count and unit type of homes in the community and staff then compare the number of existing students living in the houses. By comparing the two sets of data, a student yield for new residential homes can be determined and applied to the residential forecast.

Student enrolments are revised annually to reflect current actual student counts, and calculation variables are re-examined for adjustments that may be required. Enrolment projections are compared against historical enrolments, population forecasts, Census and birth data to validate that population information is trending in a similar manner.

Any approved Board decision such as school closures, program or boundary changes are annually incorporated into the student enrolment projections. There are several other school specific assumptions captured in the projections as well. These assumptions can include programing (e.g. French Immersion), Board policy (e.g. Out of Catchment) or Ministry initiatives (e.g. full-day kindergarten). The known factors outlined above are incorporated into enrolment projections, but annual enrolment projections can be impacted by unexpected circumstances. Events such as economic recession/growth, increased immigration and real estate booms are challenging to anticipate and capture in enrolment projections. When these events impact school enrolment, staff review the short and long-term effects on accommodation and enrolment projections.

Enrolment projections can be created for a variety of time frames; one year, five-year or ten-year projections are typical time frames used by the Planning, Accommodation & Rentals Division. An added feature of the projection software also allows staff to create scenarios during accommodation and/or boundary reviews to show the effect of school closures or boundary changes on student enrolment.

Student Yields

HWDSB’s student yield analysis for projected new residential development provides the actual student yields for a specified geography using the housing data from MPAC and the Board’s student data. The MPAC and student data are both geocoded (digitally referenced on a map) which allows for matching to be done on each individual property to determine the units that have HWDSB students. From this, yield factors are calculated based on dwelling types (single family homes, semidetached, townhomes, and apartments) to determine and become comprised within projected student enrolments.

Residential development yields will vary based on community and are calculated accordingly. The following graphic illustrates the Board- wide average student yields for elementary and secondary – they represent a single-family home yield and a townhome yield. As per the current Board-wide yield, 4 new single-family homes would yield approximately 1 HWDSB elementary aged student (4 x 0.26) and approximately 5 townhome units for 1 student (5.3 x 0.20). Yields for secondary school students are considerably lower, equating to .10 students per new single-family home and .06 students per new townhome.

Elementary Yields



Secondary Yields



Student Apportionment

HWDSB’s apportionment of students compared to our co-terminus Board is illustrated in the table below by elementary and secondary panel. HWDSB’s elementary apportionment has been steady at approximately 65% over the past 5 school years. HWDSB’s secondary apportionment has averaged approximately 57% over the past 5 years. Please note that the enrolment figured below are average daily enrolment.

Elementary Apportionment						Secondary Apportionment					
HWDSB						HWDSB					
2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Avg	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Avg
35,280	36,144	36,998	37,529	37,848	36,760	13,314	13,567	14,093	14,342	14,599	13,983
65.0%	65.5%	65.9%	65.7%	65.9%	65.6%	56.5%	57.1%	57.6%	57.5%	57.6%	57.3%
HWDCSB						HWDCSB					
2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Avg	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Avg
19,025	19,056	19,182	19,628	19,597	19,298	10,231	10,207	10,364	10,579	10,768	10,430
35.0%	34.5%	34.1%	34.3%	34.1%	34.4%	43.5%	42.9%	42.4%	42.5%	42.4%	42.7%

Apportionment enrolment data from 2024-25 Grants for Student Needs Technical Paper.

On the Ground Capacity

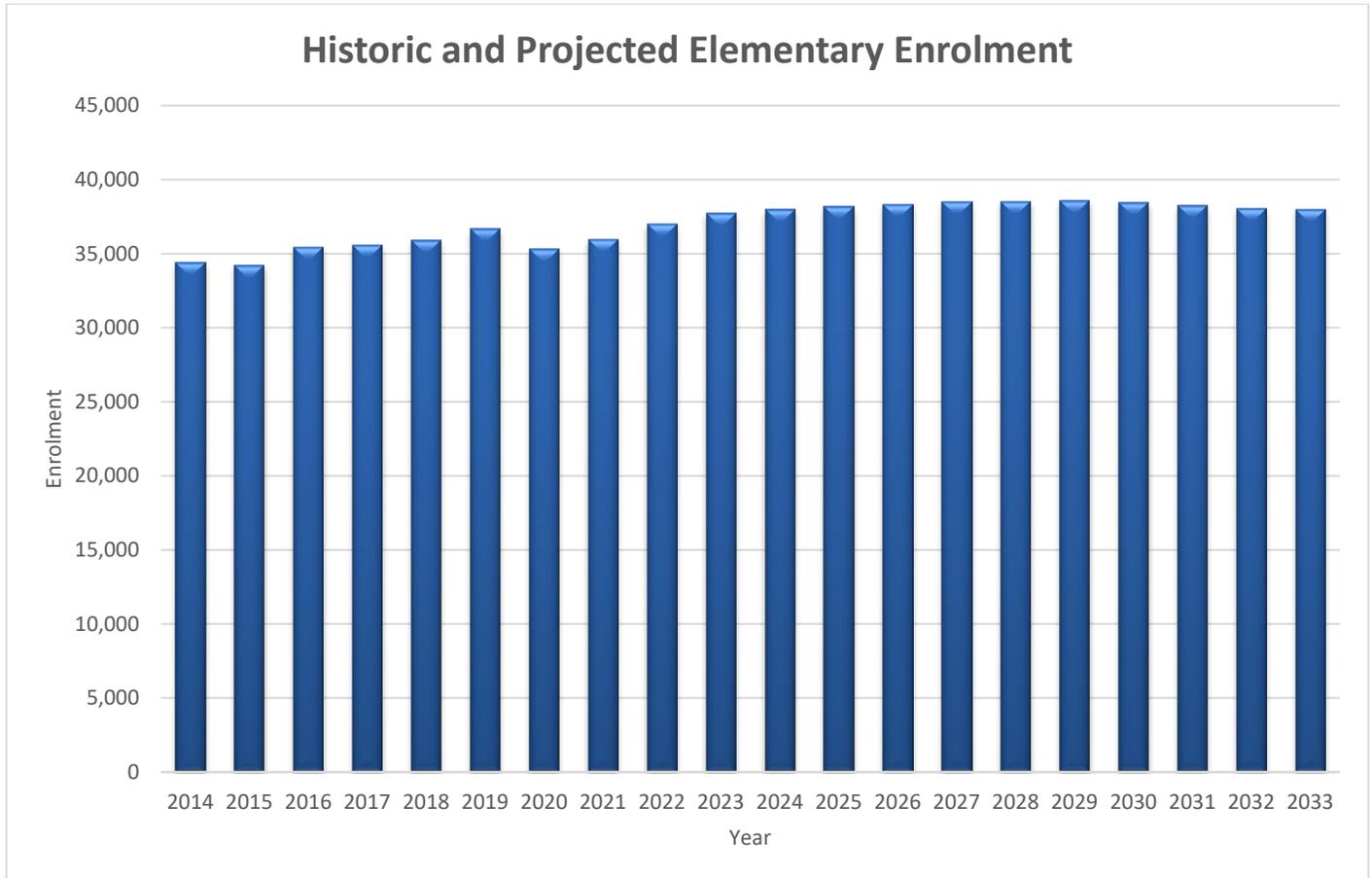
On the Ground Capacity (OTG) is the number that the Ministry of Education uses to quantify the number of students a school can accommodate. The OTG represents number of students the permanent structure of a school building can accommodate, by instructional space, and as per room loadings set by the Ministry of Education. The various types of rooms have a different loading and they differ between elementary and secondary panels. The total of the rooms in a school, and their assigned capacities are added together to calculate its OTG. Loading examples of classroom types for elementary and secondary panels are shown below.

Instructional Space	Elementary Loading	Secondary Loading
Kindergarten	26	-
Classroom	23	21
Special Education	9	9
Resource Room	12	12

School OTGs are recorded in a Ministry database that tracks information for all schools in Ontario. The database, entitled Education Capital Information System (ECIS), indicates a capacity for each school based on the number and type of instructional spaces it has (see above table).

Elementary Historic and Projected Enrolment

The following graph illustrates the elementary historical and projected enrolment of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board from 2014 to 2033. Current and projected enrolments are as of October 31st, 2023.



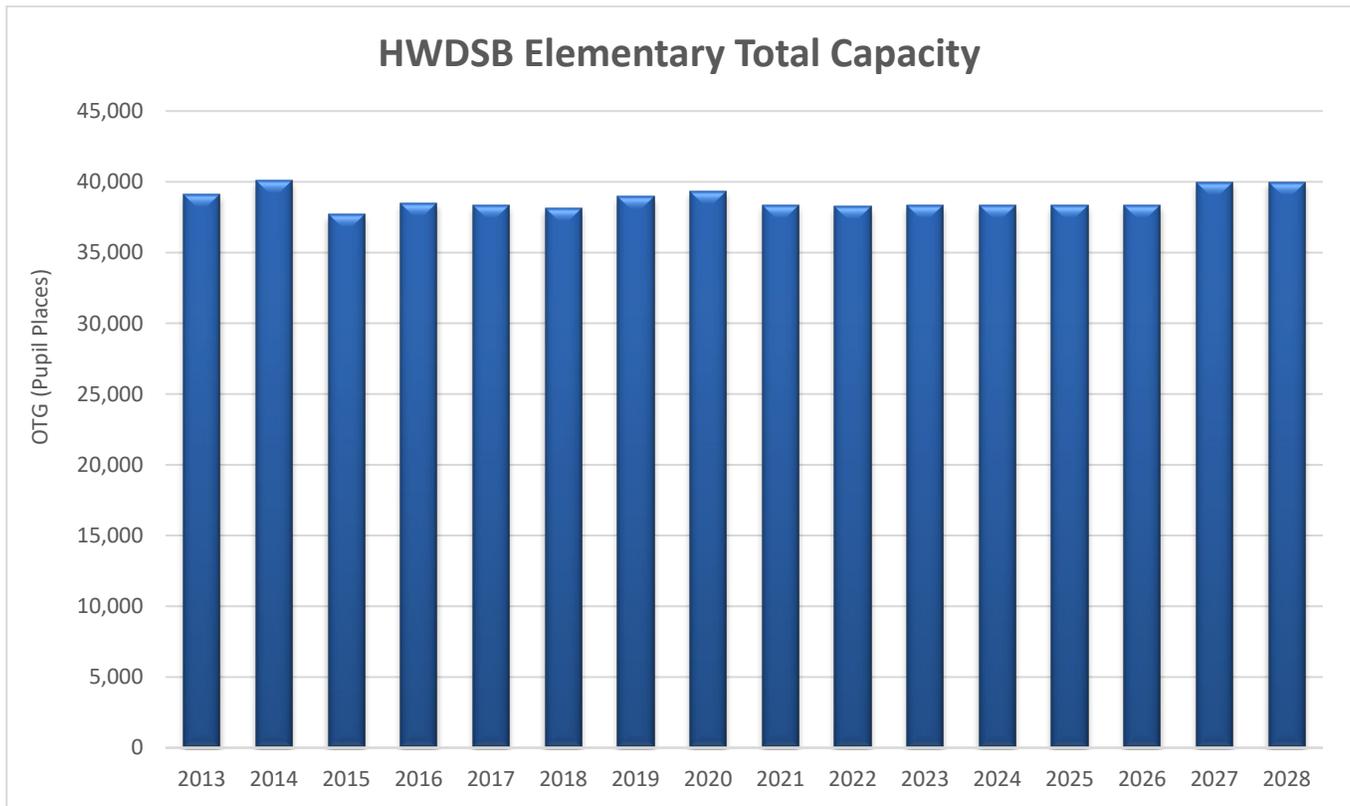
In 2020, elementary enrolment reduced to just over 35,000 students. The drop in enrolment can most likely be contributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, elementary enrolment recovered from the impacts of the pandemic and was more in line with previously projected elementary totals. 2022 total elementary enrolment was 37,000 students which exceed pre-pandemic elementary enrolment totals.

HWDSB’s elementary enrolment total is projected to grow at a slow yet stable rate for the next ten years. Factors influencing projected enrolment growth include residential development, recent increased immigration and a change in demographics as described in section 1.1. Although the total enrolment is projected to grow, individual school enrolments will fluctuate based on neighbourhood trends and new residential development.

Elementary Capacity

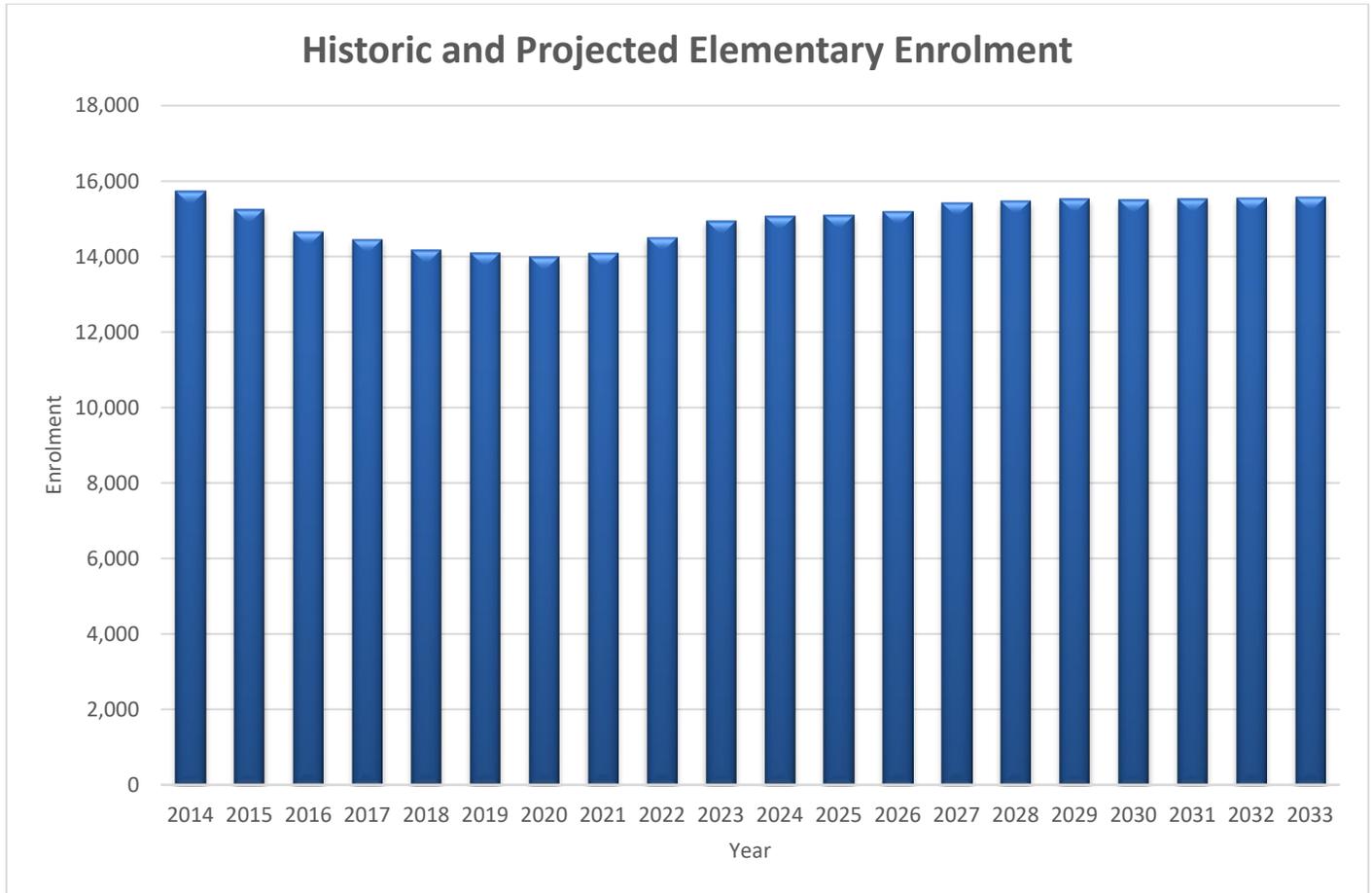
Elementary school capacity has undergone several changes over past decade. From 2010 to 2015 Full Day Kindergarten was implemented. During this period, kindergarten class sizes increased from 20 to 26 which increased the capacity of schools. Since 2011, HWDSB engaged in a series of accommodation reviews which resulted in new schools, school closures and additions. Since 2011, HWDSB has completed 13 elementary school additions, constructed 8 new elementary schools and closed 25 elementary schools.

An increase in elementary capacity will occur once the new schools in Binbrook, Upper Stoney Creek and Waterdown and the addition to Mount Hope elementary school are completed. Elementary enrolment beyond 2027 is projected to be stable at approximately 38,500 students resulting in a projected 96% Board wide elementary utilization. This calculation only includes funded capital projects and does not include the identified future school in Winona which does not yet have capital funding in place.



Secondary Historic and Projected Enrolment

The following graph demonstrates the secondary historic and projected enrolment of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board from 2012 to 2031. Current and projected enrolments are as of October 31st, 2023.

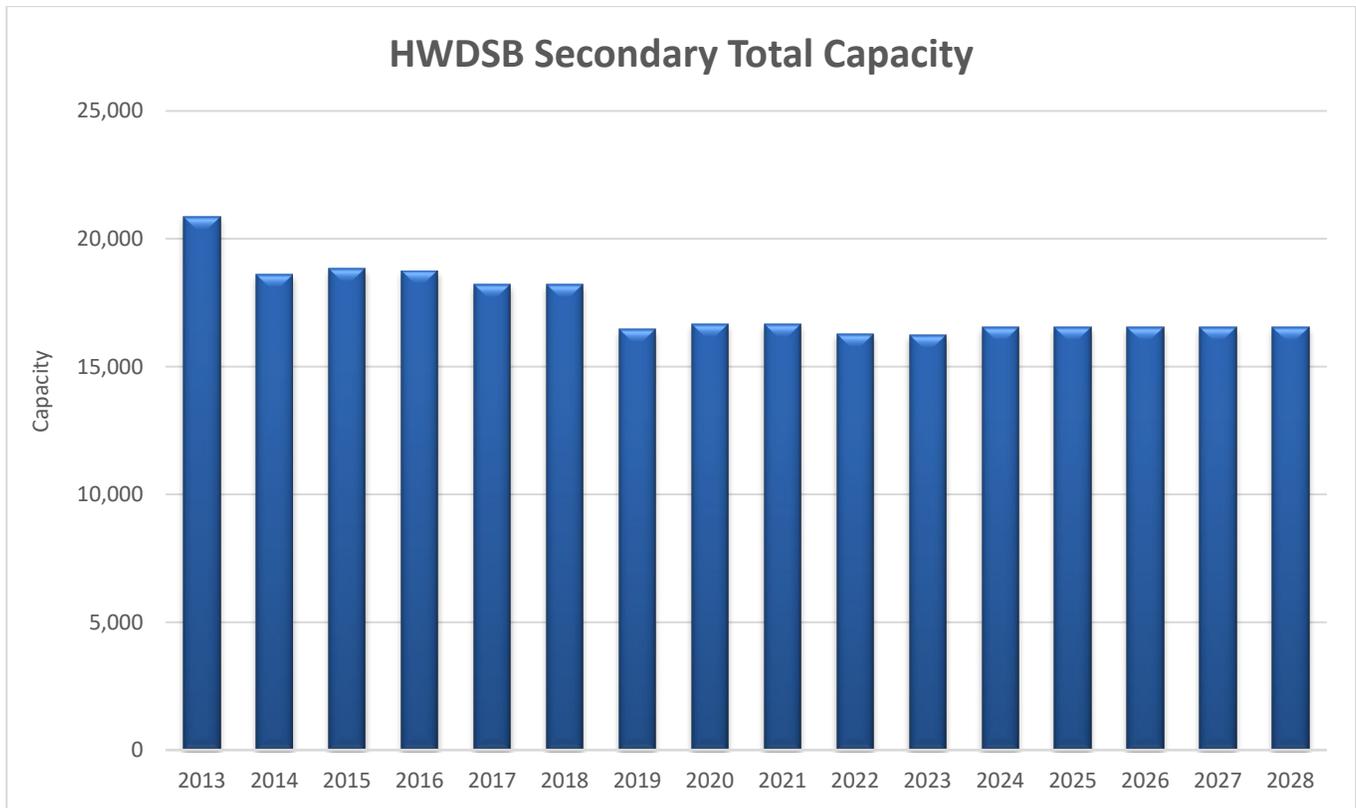


From 2014 to 2020, HWDSB secondary enrolment decreased by approximately 1,700 students. Enrolment stabilized in 2021 and since HWDSB has seen a slight increase in total secondary school enrolment. Projections show a continued growth in the late 2020's. The secondary enrolment is expected to increase due to the projected larger elementary cohorts, residential development and population growth. By 2028, it is projected that the secondary enrolment will be approximately 15,500 students.

Secondary Capacity

From 2004 to 2012, the Board’s total secondary panel capacity remained stable around approximately 20,000 pupil places. Significant changes to secondary capacity have taken place since 2012. Construction of a new wing at Waterdown District High School in 2012. The closures of Hill Park, Parkside and Parkview in 2014 and in 2015, an addition was completed at Saltfleet Secondary School. Mountain Secondary closed in June of 2017, Delta and Sir John A. Macdonald closed in June 2019. To replace these schools, the Ministry of Education approved the construction of Nora Frances Henderson Secondary School, completed in 2020 and Bernie Custis Secondary School completed in 2019. In 2024, the newly renovated Sherwood facility will reopen, and the temporary facility (former Barton) will close. Please see the chart below which depicts secondary capacity since 2013.

With these closures and new construction, the capacity of the secondary panel is approximately 16,500 pupil places. As of October 31, 2023, the secondary enrolment was approximately 14,950 students which equates to approximately 1,550 excess secondary pupil places.



Portables

In 2011, a new approach to portable and portapak management was established at HWDSB. The Portable Allocation Process provides the framework for making use of and reducing the reliance of temporary accommodation. The result of the process has decreased operating expenses, eliminated old portables in need of repair and ensured equitable allocation of temporary classrooms across the system. The process has ensured that schools who have temporary accommodation are utilizing the built space to its maximum capacity before using portables. If the built space is deemed sufficient then the portables are to be moved, locked or demolished depending on their condition.

There are two types of temporary accommodation. There are portables and portapaks. A portable is an individual transportable classroom that is independent from the school. A portapak is grouping of transportable classrooms attached by a corridor. The portapak may or may not be directly attached to the permanent school facility.

HWDSB has moved to leasing portables rather than purchasing. HWDSB currently leases 53 portables and 2 portapaks. Annual operating cost of a portable is approximately \$30,000 which includes heating, cooling, electricity, regular cleaning, maintenance and capital costs. The demolition costs for a portable is roughly \$20,000 and is strongly recommended for portables in poor condition which cannot be sold.

HWDSB has maintained a consistent number of portables since 2014/2015 ranging between 153 and 183 portables over that timespan.

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Portables	119	123	117	132	145
Portapaks	50	50	44	38	38
Total	169	173	161	170	183

Portables will be used to aid in short term accommodation pressures. A school's enrolment can fluctuate year to year which may cause a need for temporary accommodation. Portables are allocated to schools based on year to year need. Portapaks will only be considered for schools with significant long-term enrolment pressure with no future accommodation relief anticipated. Accommodation relief can be in the form of a boundary change, program change or new construction (school or addition). In the case where these three solutions are not viable, a portapak for schools with long term needs will be considered.

Portapacks can only be funded through Temporary Accommodation Funding, provided by the Ministry on an annual basis. Each year HWDSB receives an annual allocation and is typically underfunded by approximately \$1 million, given the number of portable moves and increased costs every year. Staff have sought other funding opportunities for Eastdale in the past but have not been successful. Unfortunately, portapacks cannot be funded by renewal or capital dollars at this time. Staff will continue to explore funding options for portapaks with the Ministry of Education.

Portable Inventory as of April 2024

Elementary School	Portables	Portapaks
Allan Greenleaf	3	0
AM Cunningham	4	0
Bellmoore	4	10
Billy Green	1	0
Central	4	0
Eastdale	12	0
Flamb. Centre	0	6
Franklin Road	2	0
Guy Brown	2	0
Helen Detwiler	0	6
Huntington Park	0	6
Janet Lee	4	0
Kanetskare	1	0
Lake Ave	8	0
Lawfield	6	0
Mary Hopkins	10	0
Michaelle Jean	3	0
Mount Albion	3	0
Mount Hope	4	0
Norwood Park	3	0
Parkdale	2	0
Pauline Johnson	4	0
Queensdale	3	0
R.A. Riddell	4	0
Ridgemount	1	0
Rosedale	4	0
Shannen Koostachin	9	0
Sir Wilfrid Laurier	2	0
South Meadow	3	0
Tapleytown	10	0
Templemead	2	0
Tiffany Hills	7	0
Viscount Montgomery	2	0
Viola Desmond	7	0
Winona	0	6
Yorkview	0	4
Total	134	38

Secondary School	Portables	Portapaks
Saltfleet	3	0
Westmount	8	0
Total	11	0

	Portables	Portapaks
Grand Total	145	38