

Pupil Accommodation Review – FAQ’s

October 4, 2016

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario will update “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)” as questions arise from the community through the trustees and staff related to the Cornwall Pupil Accommodation Review process. Points of clarification will also be addressed in the FAQs.

Q. What is an Accommodation Review Committee?

A. An Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) is an advisory committee established by the Board that represents the affected schools identified as being part of a pupil accommodation review. The ARC acts as an official conduit for information shared between the Board and the affected school communities.

Q. Why is my school part of the Accommodation Review?

A. An accommodation review occurs after a school board considers the current and projected enrolment at a group of schools, as well as the current physical condition of the school(s) and repairs or upgrades required. Public consultation is a big part of this process. The review could result in recommendations including:

- The closure or consolidation of a school
- Changes to grades and programs offered at a school
- New facilities and/or upgrades
- School boundary changes
- Partnerships and/or joint use opportunities
- Status quo (no changes)

Q. How does an Accommodation Review work?

A. Public consultation is at the heart of the accommodation review process. A minimum of two public meetings are to be held by the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC), as well as a number of additional working group meetings. The goal is to engage a wide range of school and community groups to participate in the consultation in order to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Committee members include principals, parents, and Board staff.

Q. Does this mean our school will close?

A. The inclusion of your school in an accommodation review process does not necessarily mean that it will close. Accommodation reviews are designed to look at a grouping of schools to determine the best solution for everyone involved in the process. While the Initial Staff Report may contain a proposed option that impacts your school, the final decision by the Board of Trustees to move forward with a recommendation will not take place until after the consultation period.

Q. Should students still register at the schools?

A. Yes. While we understand there may be speculation throughout the process, we will continue to inform students and parents about all new developments from the accommodation review.

Q. Does an Accommodation Review mean a school will close?

A. We know that facility needs and neighbourhoods change over time. School boards are responsible for providing schools and facilities for their students and for operating and maintaining schools as effectively and efficiently as possible to support student achievement. Sometimes accommodation reviews do recommend a school(s) closure.

Q. Why was as “preferred option” included in the Initial Staff Report?

A. As per the Ministry of Education’s Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, school boards are required to include an accommodation option in the Initial Staff Report. In instances where there is more than one option identified, school boards are required to identify a “preferred option”. The staff recommendation would be presented to each of the area review committees at the first public meeting. This recommendation provides a foundation for the committee’s discussions. The committee may also create alternative accommodation options, which should be consistent with the objectives and criteria outlined in committee’s terms of reference.

Q. How do I get involved with the Accommodation Review Committee?

A. Accommodation review committees have representation from parents, principals and staff, all working towards one goal, which is to provide feedback on the proposed accommodation options, developed by staff, to present to the Board of Trustees for their consideration. Talk to your school principal about how you can get involved.

Q. How is the information from the Accommodation Review Committee shared with the Public?

A. All committee meetings are open to the public and materials such as meeting dates, agenda, minutes, and all information shared with ARC members are available through the Board's website at www.cdsbeo.on.ca.

Q. When can individuals present their views if they aren't on the Committee?

A. All meetings are open to the public. Each ARC also has two public meetings that provide the opportunity for individuals and groups to review the information, ask questions of Board staff and provide written feedback. Additionally, individuals that are not on the ARC are always welcome to submit their questions and/or comments via email to PAR@cdsbeo.on.ca.

Q. Who makes the final decision in the Accommodation Review process?

A. The Board of Trustees make the final decision on all recommendations related to the accommodation review.