



Waterloo Region District School Board

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June 21, 2024

The Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Smith,

The Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), requests updates to air quality standards and guidance for public school buildings to support schools in creating the safest possible learning environments, as well as dedicated capital and operating funding envelopes for reducing the spread of illness.

Schools, as congregate settings, can continue to play a positive and proactive role in reducing the spread of respiratory viruses. Updating air quality standards and guidance for public school buildings would support schools in creating the safest possible learning environments.

Dedicated capital and operating funding envelopes for reducing the spread of illness would allow the WRDSB to build from previous provincial investments to support ventilation improvements to build long-term improvements to air quality in all the Board's schools. It would also support continued public health promotion activities in and around schools, in partnership with the Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services.

Minister Smith, we respectfully request the Ministry of Education consider these recommendations to address air quality standards for the WRDSB and other Ontario public school boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
Minister of Health
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Ontario Chief Medical Advisor
Chair of the Public Health Board
Local Members of Provincial Parliament