



April 24, 2026

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

**RE: Submission of Student Evacuation Data and Request for Provincial Action to Support Student Well-Being**

Dear Minister Calandra,

On behalf of the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), I am writing to share our Student Evacuation Quarterly Data and to advocate for a provincial approach to managing student dysregulation and classroom evacuations.

The WRDSB utilizes classroom evacuations as a safety management tool to protect students and staff during incidents involving a risk of imminent harm, or to reduce environmental stimuli for students requiring immediate support. During the period of November 16, 2025, to January 30, 2026, our district recorded a total of 495 evacuations. Key findings from this data period include:

- **Early Years Focus:** A significant concentration of evacuations involved students in Grade 1 (128 incidents) and Kindergarten (70 incidents).
- **Primary Causes:** 431 evacuations were necessitated by a perceived risk of harm to self or others, while 64 were conducted to reduce triggers or address medical exigent circumstances.

While these data reflect an evacuation rate of only 0.5% in elementary classes and 0.007% in secondary periods, each evacuation represents a disruption to the learning environment and a signal of a student in distress.

In accordance with a recent motion passed by our Board of Trustees, we respectfully submit the following requests for your consideration:

1. **Standardized Data Collection:** We ask that the Ministry of Education mandate the collection of student evacuation data across all Ontario school boards. Provincial data would allow for a clearer understanding of the systemic



challenges regarding student behavior and the identification of best practices across the sector.

2. **Resource Allocation for Schools and Agencies:** We request that the Ministry provide additional, targeted resources to school boards and community-based mental health and social service agencies. Enhanced funding for specialized staff, early intervention programs, and community partnerships is essential if the frequency of classroom evacuations is to be reduced and the root causes of student dysregulation addressed.

The WRDSB remains committed to maintaining safe, inclusive, and dignified learning environments. The complexity of student needs requires a collaborative, provincial effort to ensure that educators have the tools and support systems necessary to keep classrooms stable and productive.

We look forward to your response and to working together to support the well-being of all Ontario students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maedith Radlein".

Maedith Radlein  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and Member Boards