



**Capital Plan Instructions:
Five-Year Capital Plan Submission
for
2023/24**

These Capital Plan Instructions Supersede All Previous Editions

Ministry of Education
Capital Management Branch

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PREAMBLE: CAPITAL ASSET PLANNING SYSTEM

The Ministry of Education (Ministry) has developed a new web-based Capital Asset Planning System (MyCAPS) that school districts must now use for their annual Five-Year Capital Plan Submissions to the Ministry.

MyCAPS effectively replaces the Capital Plan Intake Spreadsheets that school districts have used in the past. Additionally, many templated forms and documents that typically accompany school district submissions (i.e., Project Request Fact Sheets, Student Enrolment, Surrounding Schools Analysis) are also available via MyCAPS.

These Capital Plan Instructions are to be used in conjunction with the MyCAPS User Guides and Training Videos available on the Dashboard in MyCAPS (<https://caps.crm3.dynamics.com/>), which define how to access, navigate, populate and submit the annual Five-Year Capital Plan submissions to the Ministry. Note that it is best to use Google Chrome when accessing MyCAPS. If new users require access, please contact the Manager, Capital Finance & Reporting.

MyCAPS enables the Ministry to issue a separate “Call for Submissions” for the Major Capital Programs and the Minor Capital Programs, with different capital project request submission deadlines. Please refer to section **1.2 Submission Deadlines** for specific due dates.

Note that Major Capital Programs are regionally dispersed amongst many Regional Directors and Planning Officers at the Ministry, whereas Minor Capital Programs are centralized for all 60 school districts with a single Regional Director and Planning Officer at the Ministry.

School districts are to ensure questions regarding Major Capital Programs and Minor Capital Programs along with access to MyCAPS are directed to the correct Ministry staff as identified on the [Capital Management Branch Contact List](#).

PART I: CAPITAL PLANNING

1 Overview

The *School Act* provides that the Minister of Education may require a board of education to prepare and submit a capital plan for its school district to the Ministry. Under this authority, the Ministry has established that capital plans will be submitted annually for its review.

The capital plan must set out particulars for each capital project that a board proposes to undertake during a period specified by the Minister, with five years being established as the appropriate time period for Government capital planning purposes. A key requirement for the submitted capital plan is an estimate of the capital funding that would be required for each proposed capital project.

As part of a Five-Year Capital Plan submission, the Ministry may also require the submission of additional reports and documentation in support of projects requested under the various Major Capital Programs and Minor Capital Programs.

Each board of education is expected to have a Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) in place for its school district that outlines management strategies for its inventory of capital assets in support of educational programming goals. The LRFP does not need to be submitted as part of a Five-Year Capital Plan, although the Ministry may request pertinent sections to inform its capital plan review process.

The *School Act* further states that prior to the Ministry's consideration of a school district's capital plan for approval, a board of education must approve the capital plan for its school district by Board Resolution.

Ultimately, the Minister has the authority to either: approve; approve with modifications; or reject a capital plan, as submitted by the board to the Ministry.

These Capital Plan Instructions are published by the Ministry to ensure that individual capital plans submitted by boards of education meet the provisions of the *School Act*, which in turn allows the Ministry to generate its own multi-year capital plan at the provincial level.

The Ministry's capital plan is subject to annual capital funding approval by Treasury Board.

1.1 Five-Year Capital Plan Submissions

Annual Five-Year Capital Plan submissions from boards of education are used by the Ministry to determine which priority capital projects may be included in the Ministry's Capital Plan for the following fiscal year. The capital plan submissions also provide the Ministry with important insight into future year capital priorities, which can be used for longer term government planning and the determination of potential future capital funding requirements for the public K-12 education system.

1.2 Submission Deadline

The Capital Asset Planning System (MyCAPS) enables the Ministry to issue a "Call for Submissions" for

school districts' Five-Year Capital Plans separately for Major Capital projects, Minor Capital projects and building envelope projects, with different submission deadlines. The submission deadlines for 2023/24 will be:

- **Major Capital Programs (SMP, EXP, REP, RDP) – June 30, 2022**
- **Minor Capital Programs (SEP, CNCP, PEP, BUS) – September 30, 2022**
- **Building Envelope Program (BEP) – June 30, 2022**

The staggered deadlines are intended to provide the Ministry with input required to initiate planning for the next budget cycle, while enabling school districts additional time and flexibility to plan over the summer. **School districts may wish to provide Major Capital, Minor Capital and building envelope submissions by the June 30, 2022 deadline.**

Additionally, the Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Expenditure Plan submissions are also to be provided by school districts using MyCAPS. As AFG is a separate stream of funding than for Major Capital Programs and Minor Capital Programs, it also follows a different review process. The submission for 2022/23 deadline will be:

- **AFG Expenditure Plan - May 31, 2022**

It is strongly encouraged that school districts discuss the draft versions of their intended capital projects and AFG Expenditure Plan with Ministry staff well in advance of submission deadlines.

1.3 Ministry Capital Programs

The Ministry seeks capital project requests under the following capital programs:

Major Capital Programs:

- Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP)
- School Expansion Program (EXP)
- School Replacement Program (REP)
- Rural Districts Program (RDP)

Minor Capital Programs:

- School Enhancement Program (SEP)
- Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)
- Bus Acquisition Program (BUS)
- Playground Equipment Program (PEP)

Other:

- Annual Facility Grant (AFG)
- Building Envelope Program (BEP)

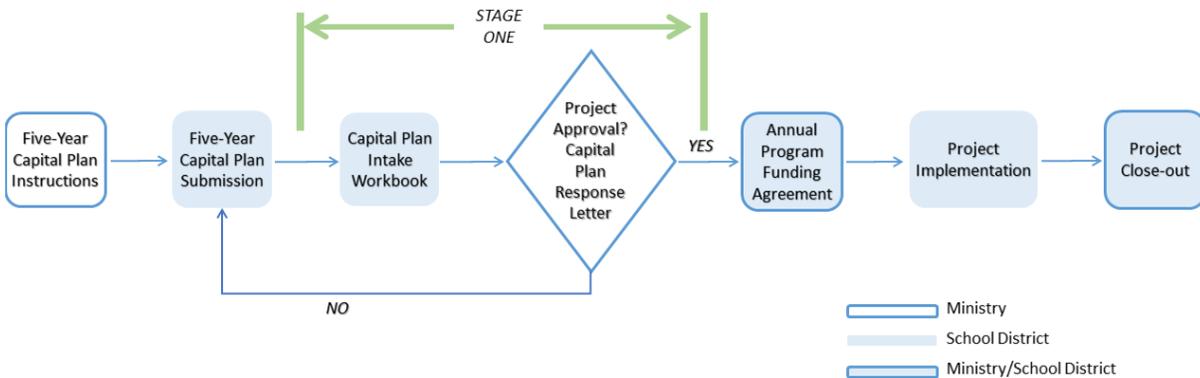
1.4 Capital Project Approval Processes

Project requests will follow an approval process that is dependent on the capital program with which the project is associated, as follows:

One-Stage Approval Process

All requests made for projects in SEP, CNCP, BUS, PEP, and BEP will undergo a one-stage approval process. Ministry support for a qualifying project request will be based on the information provided by school districts in MyCAPS. AFG Expenditure Plans require concurrence from the Ministry.

Figure 1-1 illustrates the process for SEP, CNCP, BUS, PEP, and BEP:



Two and Three-Stage Approval Processes

Requests made for projects in SMP, EXP, and REP will undergo a more extensive two or three-stage process, dependent upon project risk level, complexity and dollar value.

Initial Ministry support for project requests will be based on factsheets for SMP, EXP, REP and RDP projects. All fact sheets can be found in MyCAPS.

If supported for further business case development, confirmation to proceed to Stage Two (Concept Plan) or Stage Three (Project Definition Report) will be provided as part of the annual Capital Plan Response Letter sent to individual school districts.

Figure 1-2 illustrates the process for SMP, EXP and REP:

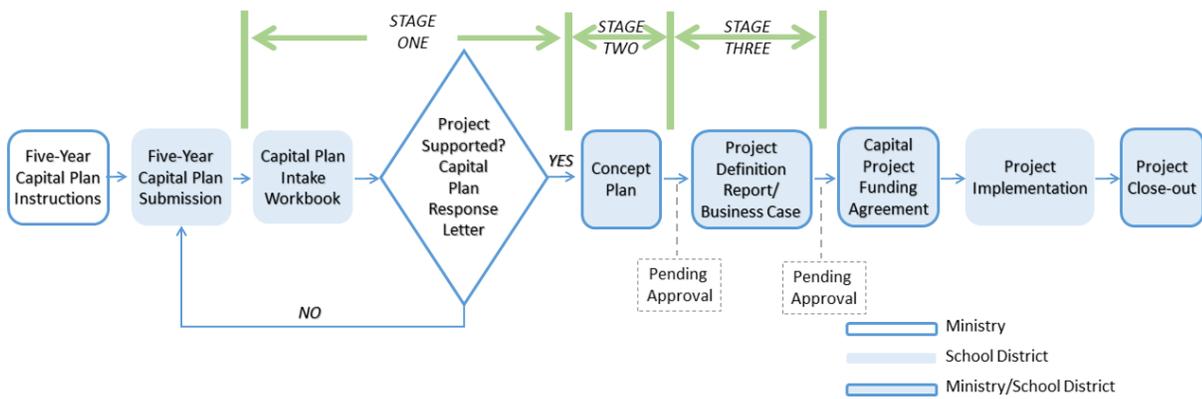
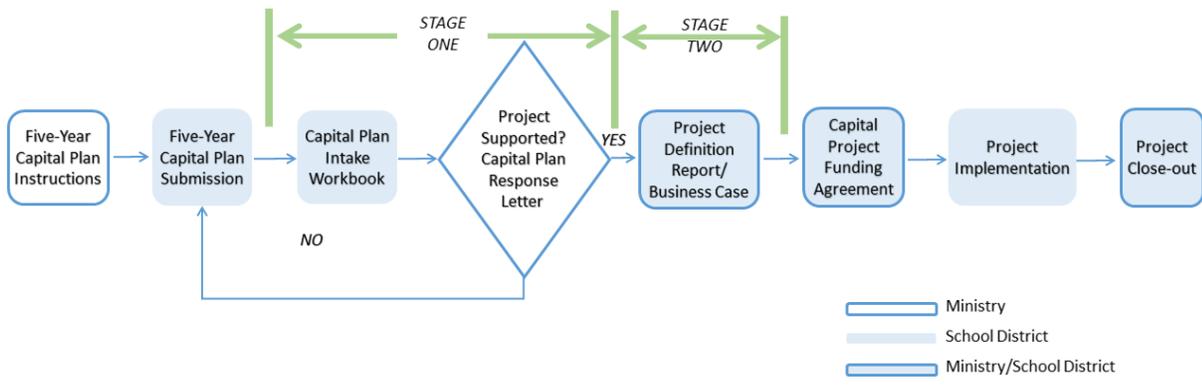


Figure 1-3 illustrates the process for RDP:



Under all processes, a board of education is responsible for using its local funds to cover the initial costs for any planning work and reports required to determine a proposed scope and preliminary cost estimates for a requested capital project.

1.5 Long-Range Facilities Plan

A comprehensive Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) should guide board of education decisions regarding capital asset management and capital plan submissions, both in terms of facility operations and educational programming. The content of each LRFP developed by boards is fully expected to vary, as it will be dependent on the unique circumstances of individual school districts currently and in the future.

The LRFP for a school district would most commonly use at least a ten-year planning horizon. However, a longer period may be considered where local government is actively pursuing extended land use planning and lengthier residential development growth strategies, which may directly influence the growth of student enrolment in different areas of the school district. Conversely, the potential contraction of communities and changing demographics in neighbourhoods, leading to subsequent decline in student enrolment, should also be considered under the LRFP.

Capital project requests should be supported by a current LRFP, as the Ministry may request school

districts to provide appropriate sections of the LRFP to inform its review of requested projects. Any school for which a capital project is being proposed must be identified in the LRFP as being required for the board's current and future provision of education programming for students in the school district.

A downloadable copy of the LRFP guidelines can be found at the Ministry's Capital Planning webpage in the [Publications & Resources](#) section.

1.6 Board Resolutions

In accordance with section 142 (4) of the *School Act*, boards of education must provide a Board Resolution in support of its annual Five-Year Capital Plan submission to the Ministry.

Boards are to provide up to three (3) separate Board Resolutions, one (1) for the Major Capital Program submissions, one (1) for Minor Capital Program submissions and one (1) for Building Envelope Program submissions (if applicable).

Completed Board Resolutions are to be uploaded in MyCAPS in conjunction with the capital plan submitted to the Ministry for each of the respective Call for Submissions.

Notably, AFG expenditure plan submissions to the Ministry do not require a Board Resolution.

Downloadable Board Resolution templates can be found at the Ministry's Capital Planning webpage in the [Publications & Resources](#) section.

1.7 Capital Plan Response Letter

Once the assessment of capital plan submissions from all school districts has been completed by the Ministry, and the provincial Budget has been released, the Ministry will notify each school district with a written response regarding the results of the Ministry's review of its board's Five-Year Capital Plan submission.

The Capital Plan Response Letter will identify the specific capital projects from the Major Capital Programs that are supported for further business case development and from the Minor Capital Programs that are approved for procurement and capital funding.

The Capital Plan Response Letter will also advise the school district of next steps for each of the supported or approved projects, which may include:

- Proceed to acquiring a site for EXP projects;
- Proceed to developing a business case (Concept Plan or Project Definition Report) for SMP, EXP, and REP projects;
- Proceed to developing a business case for RDP projects;
- Proceed to the design, tender and construction for SEP and CNCP projects;
- Proceed to acquiring a bus for BUS projects;
- Proceed to the purchase and installation of playground equipment for PEP projects;
- Work with BC Housing, when contacted, on developing BEP projects.

As only a portion of all proposed projects submitted in the annual Five-Year Capital Plan may be supported or approved for capital funding under the Ministry’s Capital Plan, ministerial approval will not be granted for a board’s capital plan in its entirety. For the purposes of section 142 (5) of the *School Act*, a capital plan with modification will instead be approved, which will only include those capital projects that have been identified in the Capital Plan Response Letter.

AFG projects are not identified in a Capital Plan Response Letter. School districts will be notified of approved AFG funding, both capital and operating portions, as part of the Provincial funding announcement made annually on or before March 15th by the Minister, in accordance with s. 106.2 of the *School Act*.

1.8 Capital Plan Bylaw

Upon receipt of the Capital Plan Response Letter from the Ministry, the board of education must adopt a single Capital Plan Bylaw, in accordance with section 143 (1) of the *School Act*. This capital bylaw encompasses all capital projects included in the Capital Plan Response Letter, which again represent the Minister-approved capital plan with modifications for the school district.

The completed Capital Plan Bylaw is to be uploaded into MyCAPS, at which time the Ministry will issue Certificates of Approval to the school district for their approved capital projects.

Approved AFG program projects do not require a Capital Plan Bylaw and will have Certificates of Approval automatically issued by the Ministry.

A downloadable Capital Plan Bylaw template can be found at the Ministry’s Capital Planning webpage in the [Publications & Resources](#) section.

1.9 Project Cost Share

Current government policy requires board of education to share in the cost of major capital projects, other than the lowest cost option for a seismic mitigation project, including:

- Site Acquisition;
- School Addition;
- New School;
- School Replacement;
- Rural Districts Program project;
- Seismic Mitigation Project (where a school district is recommending a project scope that is not the lowest cost option).

School district cost share contributions are set on a case-by-case basis, dependent on the current financial situation of the school district. A board of education’s ability to contribute has no bearing on the prioritization of projects, as outlined in the Ministry’s capital plan. The value of a board of education’s contribution is determined in the final stages of business case development, prior to securing final government approval.

The board of education's contribution can be taken from a number of funding sources, including available Ministry of Education restricted capital as well as local capital. Confirmation of a school district's funds available for cost share will be required prior to the Ministry seeking a project funding decision from Government.

1.10 Enrolment Projections

Enrolment projections for the next ten years for each school are to be entered into MyCAPS. The deadline for submitting enrolment projections is June 30, 2022. Enrolment projections can currently be entered into MyCAPS. For projects within the Major Capital Programs to be considered, 10-year enrolment projections must be completed.

2 Roles and Responsibilities

The Ministry is responsible for:

- Maintaining a record of design capacities for all schools;
- Collecting student headcount enrolment data from all school districts;
- Establishing various programs to address diverse school district capital needs;
- Setting funding eligibility criteria for each of its capital programs;
- Prioritizing capital project requests at the provincial level based on established project criteria and available funding;
- Providing school districts access to capital funds for each project approved in the Ministry's capital plan through the Certificate of Approval system.

Each board of education is responsible for:

- Undertaking the ongoing operational management and maintenance of its facilities;
- Establishing a LRFP for its school district;
- Pursuing local solutions to capital needs before requesting Provincial capital funding;
- Planning and prioritizing capital projects under the Ministry's capital programs;
- Funding all costs for project planning, including any reports, as may be required to establish the scope and budget for each requested Minor Capital Program project included in its Capital Plan submission;
- Funding all costs for preliminary project planning, including any reports, as may be required to establish the proposed scope and budget for each requested Major Capital Program project included in its Capital Plan submission.

3 Major Capital Project Requests

3.1 Year One, Year Two and Year Three Capital Projects

Major Capital Program projects (specifically EXP, REP, RDP, SMP) proposed for Year One, Year Two,

and Year Three of an annual Five-Year Capital Plan require a project-specific Project Request Fact Sheet (PRFS), project-specific Seismic Project Request Fact Sheet (SPRFS) or a project-specific Demolition Project Request Fact Sheet (DPRFS). These forms can all be found in MyCAPS.

Year One projects should be sufficiently developed to provide a reliable assessment of need, scope of work, schedule and cost estimate. This information allows the Ministry to properly evaluate an individual project request against both Ministry capital program criteria, and other capital priorities across school districts.

If the Ministry supports a proposed capital project identified as a Year One priority, then it is expected that the project can reasonably be delivered at the scope, schedule and budget identified in the Five-Year Capital Plan. Placeholder projects with inadequate project information should either be included as a Year Four or Year Five project, or included as a more immediate capital project request in a future submission when dependable project information has been developed.

The Ministry may request a project listed in Year Two to be accelerated and undertaken in addition to, or instead of, a Year One project.

3.2 Year Four and Year Five Projects

Year Four and Year Five projects are understood to be notional, based on the best cost estimate, scope and schedule information for the project that is available at the time. Understandably, this project information will require further refinement in future Five-Year Capital Plan submissions, as those project requests move into a more imminent timeframe.

3.3 Project Request Fact Sheet (PRFS)/Seismic Project Request Fact Sheet (SPRFS)

The PRFS and SPRFS are relatively straightforward forms to complete in MyCAPS (in most cases not requiring extensive consultant involvement) and provide for a preliminary assessment of a proposed major capital project that a board of education deems to be a high priority for its school district.

To enable the Ministry to gain a reasonable understanding of the priority for a proposed project, the PRFS or SPRFS is intended to outline the particular capital need facing the school district, along with options to feasibly address that need, involving both operational changes and capital solutions, based on student enrolment forecasts and utilization of student space in existing schools.

From the PRFS or SPRFS, the Ministry should be able to discern what risks may exist related either to supporting or deferring a requested project.

3.4 Demolition Project Request Fact Sheet (DPRFS)

The DPRFS is also a straightforward form to complete in MyCAPS, providing a preliminary description of a proposed building demolition project that a board of education wishes to undertake in one of its rural communities that will reduce or eliminate a board liability.

It is intended to provide sufficient background information to enable the Ministry to reasonably understand the benefits from the proposed building demolition project, and to determine the project's eligibility for capital funding support under the Rural Districts Program (RDP).

4 Minor Capital Project Requests

4.1 Year One Capital Projects

SEP, CNCP, BUS and PEP along with AFG may only be proposed as Year One projects entered in MyCAPS.

As a Year One project, the project should be sufficiently developed to provide a reliable assessment of need, scope of work, schedule and cost estimate. If the Ministry supports a Minor Capital Program project, the school district will be expected to deliver it at the scope, schedule and budget, as submitted in the Five-Year Capital Plan, on or before the end of the prospective fiscal year.

SEP and CNCP projects may be phased over multiple years, as described below in PART III: MINOR CAPITAL FUNDING PROGRAMS.

PART II: MAJOR CAPITAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

The information outlined in Part II should be read in concert with the information provided in Part I.

1 Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP)

1.1 Background

The Ministry is committed to address the high-risk schools identified in the SMP. The Five-Year Capital Plan submission allows the Ministry to annually identify the highest priority projects that should be considered for major capital investment. Critical to this identification is an assessment of current seismic risk.

The Ministry engages structural engineering expertise regarding the assessment and mitigation of seismic risks to public schools through the Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC). The EGBC has developed the Seismic Retrofit Guidelines (SRG), by which all seismic assessments and seismic mitigation work will be assessed and completed.

All seismic risk assessments and re-assessments of schools must be pre-approved, in writing, by the Ministry.

Boards of education are responsible for funding the cost of seismic risk assessments or seismic risk re-assessments, to be completed by a qualified structural engineer possessing the most recent SRG training (currently in its 3rd edition as SRG3).

If an approved seismic assessment or re-assessment of a school indicates a high seismic risk-rating, the documented results must be reported to the Ministry. The Ministry may then request the school district to complete a Seismic Project Identification Report (SPIR) for that school, which would be submitted in MyCAPS as part of a future Five-Year Capital Plan submission along with a Seismic Project Request Fact Sheet (SPRFS), for SMP projects.

The SPIR is a specifically formatted report developed by EGBC, which is to be used by SRG-trained structural engineers to document seismic mitigation options for a seismically deficient block in a school. A SPIR will define the preliminary scoping and costing for the mitigation strategy proposed. EGBC has provided a guideline for the completion of a SPIR, which also includes fee structures for structural engineers.

A downloadable copy of the SPIR guidelines can be found at the Ministry's Capital Planning webpage in the [Publications & Resources](#) section.

The seismic risk rating criteria established by EGBC for public schools are:

High 1 (H1) - structures at highest risk of widespread damage or structural failure; not repairable after event. Structural and non-structural upgrades required.

High 2 (H2) - structures at high risk of widespread damage or structural failure; likely not repairable

after event. Structural and non-structural upgrades required.

High 3 (H3) - isolated failure to building elements (such as walls), are expected; building likely not repairable after event. Structural and non-structural upgrades required.

Medium - isolated damage to building elements is expected; non-structural elements (such as bookshelves, lighting) are at risk of failure. Non-structural upgrades may be required.

Low - least vulnerable structure; isolated damage may be expected with building probably repairable after event. Non-structural upgrades may be required.

1.2 SMP Project Prioritization

Prioritization for funding of seismic projects primarily includes consideration of the level of risk, with the funding of H1, H2 and H3 risks receiving the highest priority consideration by the Ministry.

When prioritizing a school for a SMP project, a school district should consider factors such as the following:

- The risk rating of school blocks that are H1 or H2 or H3;
- The LRFP identifies that the school is well utilized and essential for providing continued education programming for students in the school district;
- The LRFP identifies the local circumstances that will corroborate the continued student enrolment in the future;
- A SPIR has already been submitted in response to a Ministry request;
- Availability of student space at neighbouring schools to accommodate current and forecasted student enrolment;
- Seismic strengthening of existing school;
- Seismic strengthening and partial replacement of existing school;
- Full replacement on the existing or alternative site;
- The Facility Condition Index (FCI) for the school;
- Consideration of Life Cycle Costs (LCC) for each option, as the cost of ongoing maintenance over the remaining physical life of an asset is an important financial factor, beyond just capital costs.

1.3 SMP Project Submission Requirements

- Review and update any project and SPRFS that was submitted in MyCAPS for the previous Five-Year Capital Plan submission but is not yet supported.
- Submit a SPRFS in MyCAPS for each new high-priority project to be considered for funding under the SMP.
- For SMP projects that are currently supported by the Ministry but are not yet approved with a signed Capital Project Funding Agreement, they are not to be re-entered into MyCAPS; however, should the school district continue to pursue these projects, they must be included as a high-priority project within the Five-Year Capital Plan that is presented to the Board.

Boards of education are responsible for funding the costs to complete a seismic risk assessment, SPIR and SPRFS.

2 Expansion Program (EXP)

2.1 EXP Project Prioritization

All EXP projects, which include a new school, an addition to an existing school, or the acquisition of a school site for a new or expanded school, must be supported by the need to accommodate student enrolment in a permanent education setting.

When developing a proposal for an EXP project, a school district should consider factors such as the following:

- Student enrolment has continued to increase over the previous five school years;
- Student enrolment is forecasted to show continued growth over the next 10 years;
- The LRFP identifies the local circumstances that will corroborate the continued student enrolment in the future;
- The LRFP identifies how new permanent school space is needed for the provision of education programming for existing students, and students new to the school district;
- The availability of properties for development of a school site;
- Availability of student space at neighbouring schools to accommodate current and forecasted student enrolment;
- Expanded class scheduling for secondary schools;
- Avoiding a site acquisition through additions to neighbouring schools;
- Acquisition of a school site for a new school;
- Acquisition of property to expand an existing school site for an addition.

2.2 EXP Site Acquisition Project

Where an expansion of an existing school site or a new school site is required, the respective EXP projects should be split into two separate capital project requests, with the initial project being the site acquisition and the subsequent project being the design and construction either of an addition to an existing school or a new school. The EXP capital project request for a site acquisition must provide supporting information that allows the Ministry to determine whether a request for the subsequent addition or new school may be supported for capital funding in a future Ministry Capital Plan.

Notably, a board of education must first have a School Site Acquisition Charges (SSAC) scheme in place for its school district before the Ministry will consider supporting a site acquisition project request.

In accordance with the Local Government Act, a SSAC scheme for a school district permits local government to collect a charge on behalf of the board from a residential developer for each new dwelling being created at the time of subdivision approval or building permit issuance. The per dwelling unit SSAC is imposed for the purpose of providing funds to assist a board of education with the capital costs of meeting its new school site requirements. In that regard, the implementation of a SSAC scheme must be based solely on the demand for new school sites that results from increased student enrolment

being generated from new residential development.

Once a SSAC scheme has been established for a school district, an annual consultation must be undertaken by the board with each local government located in the school district. This consultation must be completed before the board submits its Five-Year Capital Plan to the Ministry, in accordance with section 142 of the School Act.

Ample time must be given to allow each local government to provide the projection for the number of new residential units, and for the school district to estimate the student enrolment that will result from that residential development. The school district and local government must also come to an agreement of the approximate size and number of school sites required to accommodate the projected number of students, as well as the approximate location and land value of those school sites. These components will be used in the calculation of the various per-dwelling unit amounts that may be collected from residential developers, dependent on the density of their new residential developments.

Following the consultation process, a board of education must make a written proposal of its eligible school site requirements, which is forwarded to each local government for consideration. Where all municipal councils have accepted the proposed eligible school site requirements, the board will submit a copy of the ratified proposal to the Ministry as an addendum to its capital plan submission. In situations where one or more municipal councils have formally not accepted the proposed eligible school site requirements, leading to the undertaking of a facilitated consultation, the board must instead submit a copy of an agreed-upon revised proposal or a resultant facilitator's report as part of its capital plan submission.

Please note that copies of either a ratified proposal, a revised proposal, or a facilitator's report are not to be submitted to the Ministry in MyCAPS. They should instead be emailed separately to the respective Regional Director/Planning Officer team to be included in the Ministry's current capital plan submission file for the school district.

For further information, refer to the Implementation Guide: School Site Acquisition Charge on the Ministry's Capital Planning webpage in the [School Site Acquisition Charge \(SSAC\)](#) section.

2.3 EXP Project Submission Requirements

- Review and update any project and PRFS that was submitted in MyCAPS for the previous Five-Year Capital Plan submission but is not yet supported.
- Submit a PRFS in MyCAPS for each new high-priority project to be considered for funding under the EXP.
- For EXP projects that are currently supported by the Ministry but are not yet approved with a signed Capital Project Funding Agreement, they are not to be re-entered into MyCAPS; however, should the school district continue to pursue these projects, they must be included as a high-priority project within the Five-Year Capital Plan that is presented to the Board.

Boards of education are responsible for funding all preliminary and detailed project development work

required to advance a project for funding decision, including the completion of the PRFS.

3 Replacement Program (REP)

3.1 REP Project Prioritization

All REP projects, which include a full replacement school or a partial replacement of an existing school, must be supported by a recent building condition assessment and engineering reports substantiating that the school building or a portion of a school has reached or will shortly reach the end of its expected useful life.

When developing a proposal for a REP project, a school district should consider factors such as the following:

- The LRFP identifies that the school is essential for providing continued education programming for students in the school district;
- Availability of adequate student space at neighbouring schools to accommodate current and forecasted student enrolment;
- The Facility Condition Index (FCI) for the school;
- Any immediate health and safety issues facing occupants and visitors to the school;
- The cost-effectiveness of further capital investment, using either AFG or SEP funds, to maintain or upgrade the school to extend its useful life;
- The cost of addressing major structural issues or an accumulation of maintenance requirements approaches the cost of replacement;
- Major renovations to the existing school;
- Additions to neighbouring schools;
- Partial replacement of the existing school;
- Partial replacement of the existing school with additions to neighbouring schools;
- Full replacement of the school on its current site;
- Full replacement of the school on a new school site;
- Consideration of Life Cycle Costs (LCC) for each option, as the cost of ongoing maintenance over the remaining physical life of an asset is an important financial factor, beyond just capital costs.

3.2 REP Project Submission Requirements

- Review and update any project and PRFS that was submitted in MyCAPS for the previous Five-Year Capital Plan submission but is not yet supported.
- Submit a PRFS in MyCAPS for each new high-priority project to be considered for funding under the REP.
- For REP projects that are currently supported by the Ministry but are not yet approved with a signed Capital Project Funding Agreement, they are not to be re-entered into MyCAPS; however, should the school district continue to pursue these projects, they must be included as a high-priority project within the Five-Year Capital Plan that is presented to the Board.

Boards of education are responsible to fund both the preliminary and detailed project development work required to advance projects for funding decision, including the completion of the PRFS.

4 Rural Districts Program (RDP)

4.1 Background

Capital funds are available by the Ministry under the Rural Districts Program (RDP) for projects to assist those school districts with schools in rural communities. The intention of the RDP is to target funding for specific types of projects that would directly benefit rural communities but are typically not included under another Major Capital Program or Minor Capital Program. Specifically, RDP will provide funding for the full and partial demolition of board-owned buildings, as well as for capital projects such as renovations associated with the consolidation of under-utilized schools.

The RDP funding will only be considered for communities with a population of less than 15,000 inhabitants in those school districts located outside of the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna.

4.2 Building Demolition

RDP projects will primarily focus on the full demolition of vacant board-owned buildings that have become dilapidated and where refurbishment for school district or community use is not economically feasible.

Funding support under the RDP will also be considered for the partial demolition of functioning buildings that have extensive extraneous areas that are no longer of use to the school district or community. The intention is that by reducing its overall area through a partial demolition, a building may then operate with greater efficiency, requiring less energy and avoiding the extent of required ongoing maintenance.

4.2.1 Building Demolition Project Prioritization

The Ministry may give a higher priority to the full demolition of a surplus board-owned building encumbering a school site that is the subject of a Crown land grant, followed by buildings situated on a property owned outright by the board, and then the partial demolition of buildings that will continue to be operational.

A board may seek to revert Crown land that is no longer required for educational purposes, under authority of the *School Act* or *Land Act*. However, the Province, as represented by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Resource Operations, and Rural Development, may refuse to receive any such property into the Provincial Crown Land Inventory, unless it is a brownfield site where any encumbering buildings have first been removed and the site has undergone any necessary remediation. In these circumstances, RDP funding will assist the school district to complete the demolition and any needed site remediation. There are also situations where the cost of demolishing a building may be greater than the potential sale value of the site owned outright by a board of education located in a rural community. As this situation

renders the property disposal economically unviable to a school district, priority is next given to providing RDP funding for the demolition of an encumbering building. Even if the unencumbered property will be transferred for an alternative community use at less than fair market value, the receiving community organization will benefit by being able to direct its available funds solely to the re-development of a clean vacant site.

The Ministry will also consider allocating RDP funding for the partial demolition of a functional building. A school district will need to present the business case that the specified reduction of existing space at an under-utilized building, which remains required in support of school district operations, will result in demonstrable operational cost-savings both through reductions in energy-use and ongoing maintenance requirements.

4.2.2 Building Demolition Project Submission Requirements

- Submit a DPRFS in MyCAPS for a project to be considered for funding under the RDP

Boards of education are responsible to fund both the preliminary and detailed project development work required to advance projects for funding decision, including the completion of the DPRFS.

4.3 School Consolidations

Another area of RDP funding support relates to the completion of a board-approved consolidation of schools in a rural community that has experienced declines or shifts in student enrolment resulting in the inefficient utilization of the capacity of existing schools. The consolidation of schools should provide immediate operating efficiencies by providing educational programming in less physical space.

It is expected the school(s) that will remain operational will have sufficient capacity to accommodate the incoming students; however, in some instance the receiving school(s) may need some renovation or reconfiguration of existing space, or a small addition, for the consolidation to be effective.

A school district is advised to contact their respective Regional Director and/or Planning Officer to discuss the potential provision of capital funding an RDP project involving the consolidation of schools in a rural community.

4.3.1 School Consolidations Prioritization

School consolidation projects will be prioritized where a board of education has previously approved the consolidation to occur. Those projects where the scope is limited to the renovation of an existing building to accommodate students from another will be prioritized over those projects where an addition is required.

4.3.2 School Consolidations Project Submission Requirements

- Submit a PRFS for a project to be considered for funding under the RDP in MyCAPS

Boards of education are responsible to fund both the preliminary and detailed project development work required to advance projects for funding decision, including the completion of the PRFS.

PART III: MINOR CAPITAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

The information outlined in Part III should be read in concert with the information provided in Part I.

1 School Enhancement Program (SEP)

The SEP is a program that provides capital funding specifically for projects that improve the safety, facility condition, operational efficiency, and functionality of existing schools, in an effort to extend their useful physical life.

1.1 SEP Project Funding Criteria

SEP projects that are eligible for funding are:

1. Roofing upgrades (i.e., replacement, repair);
2. Exterior Wall System upgrades (i.e., cladding, insulation, windows, building envelope);
3. Interior Construction upgrades (i.e., interior accessibility, flooring, wall partitions);
4. HVAC upgrades (i.e., heating, ventilation, air conditioning);
5. Electrical upgrades (i.e., power supply, distribution systems, fire protection systems);
6. Plumbing upgrades (i.e., washrooms, water fountains, re-piping).

Eligible projects must be valued at more than \$100,000, but not exceed \$2,000,000. **It is also crucial to include at least one project valued at \$500,000 or less.** Projects valued over \$2,000,000 must be identified on MyCAPS as being phased over multiple years.

Projects estimated at less than \$100,000 to maintain the service-life of an existing building should not be included in an annual Five-Year Capital Plan submission, but undertaken using AFG funds or local capital funds.

The types of maintenance work that are ineligible for SEP funding include, but not limited to:

- day-to-day wear and tear;
- interior painting;
- exterior painting;
- parking lot repairs or development;
- driveway repairs or development;
- playground and playfield repairs or development;
- School Board offices, bus depots/buildings, maintenance shops/buildings.

1.2 SEP Project Submission Requirements

- All SEP project requests must be submitted using MyCAPS.
- A maximum of five (5) separate SEP projects may be submitted per school district, for funding

consideration by the Ministry (with at least one project valued at \$500,000 or less).

- Only SEP projects (single phase; or one of two (or more) phases) that can be completed by March 31st of the prospective fiscal year should be submitted.
- For a newly-requested multi-phase SEP project, only the first phase of SEP work should be included in Year One of MyCAPS- the second phase of SEP work is to be noted in the Project Description section.
- For an existing multi-phase SEP project that has already completed the first phase of SEP work, the second (and future) phase(s) of SEP work should be included in Year One of MyCAPS; with a note identifying additional future phases in the Project Description section.

2 Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)

The CNCP is a program that provides capital funding specifically for energy-efficiency projects that lower a school district's carbon emissions.

2.1 CNCP Project Funding Criteria

The primary considerations in evaluating submitted project proposals will be the measurable emissions reductions and operational cost-savings expected as a result of the completed project. Other considerations include:

- The level of innovation of the intended project on a facility or a district-wide basis.
- The VFA Canada Corporation renewal period of the proposed project.
- The contributions to be made towards the cost of the proposed project by the school district and third parties.
- CNCP funding received by the school district to date.

When selecting priorities for CNCP funding, the school district should consider the following:

- The measurable short and long term emissions reductions and operational cost savings.
- Coordination with other capital program needs for the schools (i.e., SMP or SEP).
- The LRF identifies that the school is essential for providing continued education programming for students in the school district.
- Previous recent projects have been delivered within the scope, schedule and budget.
- The school district has the resources to successfully deliver the project.

2.2 CNCP Project Submission Requirements

- All project proposals must be submitted using MyCAPS.
- Submit supporting reports in PDF format (i.e., Energy Manager Reports, VFA Canada Corporation Reports, Engineering Reports) in MyCAPS.
- A maximum of five (5) separate CNCP projects may be submitted per school district, for funding consideration by the Ministry.
- Only CNCP projects that can be completed by March 31st of the prospective fiscal year should be submitted.

- For a newly-requested multi-phase CNCP project, only the first phase of CNCP work should be included in Year One of MyCAPS; the second phase of CNCP work is to be noted in the Project Description section.
- For an existing multi-phase CNCP project that has already completed the first phase of CNCP work, the second (and future) phase(s) of CNCP work should be included in Year One of MyCAPS; with a note identifying additional future phases in the Project Description section.

3 Bus Acquisition Program (BUS)

School buses are considered capital assets and capital funding requests to acquire any new or replacement buses must be made to the Ministry as part of a school district's annual Five-Year Capital Plan submission.

3.1 BUS Project Funding Criteria

Bus funding requests will consider the following;

- School bus age and/or mileage:
 - school bus age will be determined from the year it was put into service
 - mileage will be determined using the date of funding request submission
- Existing buses with safety and mechanical issues.
- New school buses to support new trips on existing routes due to increased student enrolment or new routes to newly serve areas of the school district without current student transportation service.
- School district's intention to create their own bussing services versus using third-party contracted services.

Replacement of an existing school bus will be considered for the following situations:

- Type A2 buses (20-29 passengers), which are 10 years old and/or have more than 250,000 km.
- Type C buses (34-76 passengers), which are 12 years old and/or have more than 325,000 km.
- Type D-RE & Type D-FE (80+ passengers), which are 15 years old and/or have more than 400,000 km.
- None of the above applies, but the need for replacement can be substantiated with supplementary information by a qualified third-party.

A bus that has been replaced may not be used for any permanent routes, and once a bus has been claimed for replacement, under no circumstances may it be claimed again. This includes buses that have been sold by one school district to another school district.

Where approved by the Ministry, bus acquisition funding will be based on a capital allowance. School districts must procure their school buses using the annual Request for Standing Offer (RFSO) process managed by the Association of School Transportation Services of British Columbia (ASTSBC).

The ASTSBC will invoice school districts for two (2) percent of their bus purchase price to defray the cost of administering this initiative. This fee is included in the Capital Funding Grant and is not an additional cost to the school district. Public schools that are in arrears of their administration fee payment from

purchases under previous RFSOs will be ineligible for future standing offer procurements.

Details of the RFSO can be found at: <http://www.astsbcc.org/>

3.2 BUS Inventory

To assist the Ministry in its long-term planning and forecasting of bus replacements throughout the province, school districts must provide an update to their entire existing bus inventory each year in MyCAPS.

3.3 BUS Project Submission Requirements

- All bus requests must be submitted using MyCAPS.
- For replacement due to safety and mechanical issues, submit the following documents in MyCAPS:
 - detailed description of the safety and or mechanical issues with costs, supported by supplementary documentation from a qualified third-party (i.e., repair/mechanical shop, insurance company).
 - the latest Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement (CVSE) inspection report verifying the bus unit number, age, condition and number of kilometres and identified issues.
- For additional buses for new routes or trips, submit the following documents:
 - rationale for the request that demonstrates the increase ridership and are to include copies of route sheets, route maps, and supporting route optimization analysis.
- For replacement of existing buses, submit the following documents:
 - if bus has met both age and mileage criteria, no additional documentation is required.
 - if bus replacement is sooner than outlined in Ministry guidelines for age and/or mileage, the reasons for early replacement and recent maintenance costs records are required (supported by the latest Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement (CVSE) inspection report verifying the bus unit number, age, condition and number of kilometres and identified issues).
- For creation of school district owned bussing services, submit the following documents:
 - rationale for the request that demonstrates operational cost-benefit analysis of owned bussing services versus using third-party contracted services, and are to include copies of fleet management plan, route sheets, route maps, and supporting route optimization analysis.
- Bus purchases must be completed using the RFSO process, with goods received by March 31st of the prospective fiscal year.

4 Playground Equipment Program (PEP)

The PEP was established to provide playground equipment systems at schools that do not currently have one, or to replace aging playground equipment systems that may pose health and safety hazards.

Supporting inclusion and accessibility for all children, the PEP is available to provide specific funding to purchase and install new or replacement playground equipment that is universal in design, and is in compliance with accessibility measures as defined through the [Canadian Standards Association CAN/CSA-Z614-14 \(R2019\): Children's Playspaces and Equipment](#)

Universal design aims to create environments that can be used by as many people as possible without special adaptations or modifications, and projects should include equipment and appropriate surfacing which create an inclusive and accessible playground concept.

Universally designed playground spaces include adventure-style playground equipment that is designed to include all elementary-aged students regardless of ability.

To meet the range of students' needs in designing playgrounds to include every child, school districts should consider all physical, mental, intellectual, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or functional limitations – whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, that in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society.

This equipment is to be permanently fixed on a school site and include appropriate ground cover for fall protection, improved access, and increased mobility.

4.1 PEP Project Funding Criteria

Only schools where the majority of grades are elementary (K-7) will be eligible for PEP. With a focus on full playground equipment replacement, projects for partial replacement of existing equipment or repair of existing equipment will not be considered. Schools that do not currently have playground equipment and students do not have easy access to nearby equipment may be prioritized.

4.2 PEP Project Submission Requirements

- All proposed PEP projects must be submitted using MyCAPS.
- A maximum of three (3) separate PEP projects may be submitted per school district, for funding consideration by the Ministry. Only PEP projects that can be completed by March 31st of the prospective fiscal year should be submitted.
- PEP projects that have previously been supported by the Ministry to receive capital funding must not be included in MyCAPS.

PART IV: BUILDING ENVELOPE PROGRAM

The information outlined in Part III should be read in concert with the information provided in Part I.

1 Building Envelope Program (BEP)

The BEP is a program that is available to provide specific funding for remediation to known building envelope issues at schools that were built between the years of 1985 and 2000; that have undergone a Building Envelope Condition Assessment (BECA) by BC Housing; and that are on BC Housing's list of eligible schools.

1.1 BEP Project Prioritization

School districts have previously been provided with a list of their BEP projects, as ranked by BC Housing. While the Ministry will use the BC Housing rankings as a guide for prioritizing BEP funding, a school district may work with the Ministry to amend that priority, if necessary.

When requesting a BEP project, a school district should consider the following factors:

- The LRFP identifies that the school is essential for providing continued education programming for students in the school district;
- The Facility Condition Index (FCI) for the school;
- The priority ranking of the school by BC Housing;
- Opportunities to coordinate the BEP project with other required building upgrades under AFG, CNCP, SEP, SMP, or EXP (i.e., an addition).

1.2 BEP Project Submission Requirements

- Review and update any BEP project that was submitted in MyCAPS for the previous Five-Year Capital Plan submission.
- For BEP projects that are currently supported by the Ministry but are not yet approved with a signed Capital Project Funding Agreement, they are not to be re-entered into MyCAPS; however, should the school district continue to pursue these projects, they must be included as a high-priority project within the Five-Year Capital Plan that is presented to the Board.

PART V: ANNUAL FACILITY GRANT

The information outlined in Part IV should be read in concert with the information provided in Part I.

1 Annual Facility Grant (AFG)

The AFG funding is provided as a lump sum amount annually which a board of education may expend for the purpose of:

- upgrading or replacing existing facility components throughout the expected economic life of an existing capital asset;
 - enhancing the service potential of an existing capital asset or a component of an existing capital asset by correcting deficiencies in design or construction, and unsafe conditions;
 - significantly lowering the associated operating costs of an existing capital asset; or
 - extending the life of an existing capital asset or a component of an existing capital asset beyond its original life expectancy.
- A board of education is responsible for managing its AFG funds to enable planned or emergent health and safety expenditures to be addressed within a fiscal year.

1.1 AFG Project Funding Criteria

There are nine main categories of eligible AFG expenditures:

- **Accessibility upgrades** (improvements related to access for persons with mobility issues or physical disabilities);
- **Asbestos Abatement** (mitigation and/or remediation of asbestos affected areas);
- **Electrical upgrades** (improvements or replacements of power supply and distribution systems, fire protection systems, and technological infrastructure upgrades to accommodate computer and telecommunications networks);
- **Exterior Wall System upgrades** (improvements to protect the fabric of the building, including exterior painting, window and door replacement, building envelope repair and replacement, structural and non-structural seismic mitigation);
- **HVAC upgrades** (improvements, replacements or provision of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems);
- **Interior Construction upgrades** (improvements of school facilities related to flooring, wall partitions, non-structural upgrades, and the provision of educational programming);
- **Plumbing upgrades** (improvements, replacements or provision of washroom and plumbing systems, and safe drinking water);
- **Roofing upgrades** (scheduled roof replacements and major roof repairs);
- **Site upgrades** (site improvements including positive site drainage; repairs to sidewalks, parking lots, site access/egress, paved work areas, paved play areas, and play fields; repairs, upgrading or replacement of playground equipment; perimeter safety fencing; contaminated soil remediation; underground storage tanks removal; sewer or water services; underground irrigation systems; traffic safety).

Expenditures for annual facility projects may include any associated consultant fees.

Examples of ineligible use of AFG include:

- Building expansions resulting in increases to gross facility area or design capacity;
- Building acquisitions;
- Site acquisitions;
- Acquisition of equipment, furnishings, personal computers and peripherals, servers, or vehicles and their accessories.

1.2 AFG Project Submission Requirements

- All AFG project requests must be submitted using MyCAPS.
- Only AFG projects that can be completed by March 31st of the prospective fiscal year should be submitted.

Upon Ministry concurrence of a school districts AFG Expenditure Plan, any and all subsequent deviations from the approved plan due to emergent issues and items are to be communicated to the Ministry in writing and upon return correspondence, updated by the school district in MyCAPS.