

Appendix A: Overview of Bill 98:
The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023

Legislative Amendment	Intended Outcome	Comes into Force
Accountability and Transparency		
<u>Provincial Priorities Framework</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish authority for the province to set provincial education priorities on student achievement. Require school boards to publicly report on progress towards these priorities and offer at least two meetings with parents each year to discuss priorities and the progress towards them. When school boards need support to advance provincial priorities, allow the Minister to assign support personnel, with corresponding obligations for boards to cooperate. 	Establish a formal and transparent approach to provincial priority setting, performance reporting and supporting boards to address varying performance and focus on student achievement.	June 8, 2023
<u>Transparent and Accountable Use of Resources</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require standardized reporting of funding received and how it was spent. Increase accountability over school board spending, including setting limits on funding envelopes, prescribing activities relating to a school board's business activities and governing school board's participation in the activities, and expanding authorized financial investigators. Establish authority to set out financial policy and accountability matters for school board-controlled entities. 	Strengthen accountability over school board spending and require transparent reporting on how school board spending supports student outcomes.	June 8, 2023
<u>School Board-Municipality Cooperation in support of Child Care Programs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalize a requirement for school boards to cooperate with municipalities in child care planning for their communities. 	Support the implementation of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.	June 8, 2023
<u>Accelerated Apprenticeship Pathways</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable an accelerated apprenticeship pathway (pending consultations). 	Support the province's priority of addressing labour market needs for the skilled trades and help students enter the skilled trades faster.	Upon proclamation, pending consultations
Governance and Leadership		

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<u>Training</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable standardized training requirements for trustees, Directors of Education and other senior school board officials as set out by the Minister. 	Support all trustees and senior board officials to develop the skills and competencies to deliver on provincial priorities.	June 8, 2023
<u>Trustee Conduct</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the requirement for school boards to have a Trustee Code of Conduct. Create an impartial Integrity Commissioner-led process for resolving code of conduct complaints and expand sanctions for breaches of conduct. 	Resolve code of conduct complaints in a fair, timely and transparent manner.	Upon proclamation
<u>Directors of Education Performance Appraisals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create regulation-making authority to standardize the process for Directors of Education performance appraisals – i.e., mandatory appraisal elements and the requirement for school boards to engage the Minister in the appraisal process, when requested by the Minister. 	Support school boards in assessing the performance of Directors of Education and ensure more consistent approaches that consider performance in relation to provincial priorities.	Upon proclamation
Maximizing Capital Assets		
<u>Leveraging Surplus School Board Property</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring school boards to provide the Minister with any information and reports respecting school property, buildings and potential future school sites. Establish a regulatory framework for property not needed by school boards to meet current or future pupil accommodation needs in the next ten years. 	Better leverage surplus property for public education and other provincial priorities.	<p>Information requirement is in force as of June 8, 2023.</p> <p>Surplus Framework will be upon proclamation</p>
<u>Addressing High Growth Areas/Needs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a regulatory framework that reduces barriers for school boards to facilitate agreements for schools in multi-use buildings. Aligns with corresponding policy in Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Provincial Policy Statement. 	Address accommodation needs in urban/high growth areas.	Upon proclamation
<u>Early and Integrated Planning with Municipalities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require school boards to collaborate with municipalities to facilitate early and integrated 	Ensure better planning for schools and	June 8, 2023

Legislative Amendment	Intended Outcome	Comes into Force
<p>planning for schools and child care centres within schools to meet current and future needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with corresponding policy in Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Provincial Policy Statement. 	<p>associated child care facilities.</p>	
<p><u>Joint Use of Schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide authority to direct school boards to enter into arrangements respecting the joint use of schools. To come into force following consultations with Trustee Associations. 	<p>Maximize school capacity, where appropriate so students can go to school as close to home as possible.</p>	<p>No later than December 31, 2023</p>
<p><u>Enhancement of Design Standardization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide authority to direct school boards to use specific design standards for capital projects. 	<p>Improve consistency at the design phase to help reduce planning time and expedite the approvals process.</p>	<p>June 8, 2023</p>
<p>Teacher Training and Educator Oversight</p>		
<p><u>Effective Teacher Disciplinary Processes and Funding Eligibility for Students who have been subjects of Sexual Abuse</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable more efficient disciplinary processes (e.g., giving committees authority to deal with members convicted of Criminal Code offences in faster, more effective ways that protect students). Provide clarity on inactive/non-practicing membership status for teachers. Expand eligibility for funding for therapy and counselling to all students who have been subjects of alleged sexual abuse by members of the Ontario College of Teachers. 	<p>Increase public confidence in the protection of students and increase efficiency in the Ontario College of Teachers and College of Early Childhood Educators investigations discipline and other operations.</p>	<p>June 8, 2023 (except for clarifying inactive/non-practicing membership status and revoking certificates suspended for failure to pay fees or provide information to the Ontario College of Teachers, which is upon proclamation)</p>
<p><u>Modernize Teacher Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add foundational professional teacher education program requirements in the <i>Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996</i> including math and literacy requirements in the Ontario curriculum. 	<p>Create a streamlined, flexible and responsive teacher education program that focuses on core content that prepares teachers to meet student academic demands and allows for appropriate classroom assignments.</p>	<p>June 8, 2023</p>
<p>Consistent Information and Approaches to Student Learning</p>		

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<p><u>Curriculum Review Process and Materials</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create authority to establish formal guidelines for a transparent and predictable curriculum review process that ensures curriculum is reviewed regularly and is informed by experts on pedagogy and labour market needs. • Create authority to charge a fee to publishers to support the ministry's evaluation of textbooks for curriculum alignment. 	<p>Ensure curriculum is reviewed regularly and is informed by experts on pedagogy and labour market needs.</p>	<p>June 8, 2023</p>
<p><u>Consistency in Student Mental Health supports and Special Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create authority to issue policies and guidelines relating to student mental health and require boards to comply with them. • Update the French-language terminology relating to special education in the French version of the <i>Education Act</i> and the <i>Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001</i>. 	<p>Support consistency in the delivery of mental health education and services and promote inclusive language on special education in the French version of the <i>Education Act</i>.</p>	<p>Consistency in Student Mental Health supports are in force as of June 8, 2023</p> <p>Consistency in Special Education terminology will be upon proclamation</p>
<p><u>Strengthen Parent Involvement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require school boards to develop and provide parent-friendly information, including materials regarding matters such as special education, and set out minimum timing and subject matter of school board communication to parents. • Require school boards to develop and make public a service standard protocol for responses to queries from parents/families. 	<p>Foster greater parent involvement in their children's education through transparent and easy to access information and opportunities for parent participation in school and school board activities.</p>	<p>June 8, 2023</p>

APPENDIX B: Overview of Amendments to Bill 98 made during the Standing Committee Process

Note: ‘The Act’ as referred to in the table is in reference to the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*.

Amendments	Rationale
<p>The <i>Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007</i> provides that the Complaints Committee may take such action as it considers appropriate in the circumstances, including issuing a caution, reminder, advice, or admonishment.</p> <p>The Bill, as introduced, would have amended this provision to also allow the Committee to require a member to complete remedial education or training.</p> <p>The Bill was amended by replacing the term “remedial training or education” with “a specified continuing education or remediation program”.</p>	<p>This technical change maintains the intent of the amendments in the Bill as introduced and will align with the language used in the legislation that governs health professionals (<i>Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991</i>), including better aligning the different types of learning that may be captured under this provision.</p>
<p>Section 33.2 of the <i>Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007</i> provides for mandatory revocation where a member is found guilty by the Discipline Committee of professional misconduct consisting of or including sexual abuse of a child, a prohibited act of child pornography or a prescribed sexual act.</p> <p>The Bill, as introduced, would have amended subsection 33.2 (8) to provide that the Discipline Committee need not hold a hearing where the member has been convicted of a criminal sexual offence involving sexual abuse of a child, child pornography or a prescribed sexual act.</p> <p>The Bill was amended to clarify that the act or conduct that was the basis for the criminal conviction must be the same as the matter before the Discipline Committee. It also clarifies that the process under section 33 still applies (e.g. making a finding of</p>	<p>This change clarifies that the College of Early Childhood Educators has authority to find a member guilty of professional misconduct even if it was not required to hold a hearing, in the case where the member has been convicted of a criminal sexual offence involving sexual abuse of a child, child pornography or a prescribed sexual act. The amendment also clarifies that the act or conduct that was the basis for the criminal conviction must be the same as the matter before the Discipline Committee, and that the committee process under section 33 still applies (e.g., making a finding of professional misconduct and related penalties).</p>

<p>professional misconduct and related penalties).</p>	
<p>The Bill, as introduced, was amended to expand the eligibility for therapy funding set out in the Act by capturing not only scenarios where a child was in the care of an early childhood educator when the abuse occurred but also where a member’s role as an early childhood educator facilitated access to a child.</p>	<p>This change will confirm that the eligibility criteria for therapy funding requires the alleged act to be related to a member’s practice.</p>
<p>The Bill, as introduced, was amended to replace ‘future’ pupil accommodation needs with ‘pupil accommodation needs for the next 10 years’.</p>	<p>These changes clarify the government’s commitment to building modern schools faster and better utilizing school capacity, which is a key element and commitment of the <i>Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023</i>.</p>
<p>The Bill, as introduced, was amended to add flexibility in prescribing procedural elements of the legislative scheme related to Integrity Commissioners.</p>	<p>These changes will allow the new Integrity Commissioner-led process of addressing school board trustee conduct to reflect sector feedback during implementation.</p>
<p>The Bill, as introduced, was amended to clarify the authority in the <i>Ontario College of Teachers Act</i> to find members guilty of professional misconduct under section 30 where no hearing is held.</p>	<p>These changes align with the <i>Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007</i> and would clarify that the subsection deals with members convicted of sexual offences under the Criminal Code (Canada). The changes include the authority to order fines, costs, reimbursement for therapy funding, and publication bans. The change would also provide clarity that the act or conduct that was the basis for the criminal conviction must be the same as the matter before the Discipline Committee under the new subsection.</p>