



June 2, 2026

Mr. Francois Godin
Director of Facilities and Transportation
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD)
Place 2000, PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Re: Provincial Policy 409 – Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning

Dear Mr. Godin,

Anglophone West School District acknowledges receipt of your April 30, 2026, memo which, among other responsibilities, asks for an update on the schools within our district that are at or below one or more of the established threshold indicators identified in Provincial Policy 409. Within this memo, we are advised to share our intentions regarding sustainability studies specific to the nine schools listed as having less than 100 students for enrolment or a functional capacity of less than 30%.

We believe that we need to remain true to the policy and allow district education councils (DECs) to decide when a sustainability study is required. DECs understand the local communities and work with district staff to be aware of current data and trends within the schools. There is so much more to closing a school than just an examination of numbers. In fact, this is why the concept of a sustainability study is in place.

At our May 21, 2026, public session of the District Education Council, the nine identified schools were summarily reviewed by the DEC, and we have concluded the following:

Bristol Elementary School – has had one sustainability study, resulting in a vote for “closure” when the new K-8 school is built in the Carleton North catchment area. This project is well underway, with the educational specifications already approved and land now acquired. We expect that Bristol Elementary School will close at the end of June 2029 or 2030, once the new school is built. Three other schools will also close at that time. We do not plan on conducting another sustainability study for Bristol Elementary School.

Burton Elementary School – has had three sustainability studies, with the first two resulting in a vote for “status quo” and the third resulting in a vote for “closure” when the new schools in Oromocto are constructed. This rationalization of schools (closing seven schools in Oromocto/Burton in favour of building three new schools in Oromocto) is on the Stable Departmental Infrastructure Planning (SDIP) list, standing at #5 and with major capital construction funding in place for 2026-27. The Burton community understands the school will close but have been told it will not occur until the staff and students move into a new school. We do not plan on conducting another sustainability study for Burton Elementary School.



Chipman Forest Avenue School (CFAS) – has not had a sustainability study completed in the past. This is due to the relative age of the building (less than 40 years) and that it is in relatively good condition. Enrolment at CFAS was 150 in September 2020 and climbed to 183 in October 2024. It currently sits at 174. Enrolment projections with our software suggest that enrolment may climb to 231 by 2033. Current enrolment trends at the school are outpacing previous enrolment projections. Either this year or next year, it is the intention of ASD-W to include Chipman and Minto schools in a further assessment on suitability to be renovated for possible K-12 configuration. We do not plan on conducting a sustainability study for Chipman Forest Avenue School.

Doaktown Elementary School – has not had a sustainability study in the past 15+ years. This is due to its location with no proximity to another elementary school setting. Currently, students travel an average of 5.08 km to school, with a minimum distance of 0.41 km and a maximum distance of 20.31 km. This equates to travel time of 15.08 minutes, on average, to be delivered home (maximum is 45 minutes) and 23.19 minutes, on average, to be delivered to school (maximum is 56 minutes). If these students were to go to Blackville Community School in ASD-N, then the average distance would be 39.08 km, approximately 7.7 times further. The longest drive would be 54.31 km, and the shortest drive would be 34.41 km. Likewise, if these students were to go to Upper Miramichi Elementary School in Boiestown, the average distance would be 32.08 km, approximately 6.3 times further. The longest drive would be 47.31 km, and the shortest drive would be 27.41 km. None of these changes would result in reasonable drives for students, aged 5 to 11. Although moving the students to Central New Brunswick Academy (CNBA) would result in an average drive of 14.67 km (includes students from Upper Miramichi Elementary School), CNBA would require considerable investment and renovations in order to transform it into a K-12 school. There was a community/district understanding upon the construction of CNBA that the elementary schools would remain intact. We do not plan on conducting a sustainability study for Doaktown Elementary School.

Kingsclear Community School – has had one sustainability study, resulting in a vote for “status quo”. This school, in combination with Garden Creek Elementary School, is currently the subject of a feasibility study by Ernst and Young and recommendations will be made for its future in conjunction with new building projects that have been discussed and are expected to join the SDIP next year. We expect Kingsclear will close if a new school is built or there is an investment on upgrading Garden Creek Elementary School. Considerations of moving students to Hanwell Park Academy could also be reasonable. We plan on discussing the possibility of conducting another sustainability study for Kingsclear Community School when the new DEC is established and beginning in the 2026-27 school year or the 2027-28 school year.

McAdam Elementary and McAdam High Schools – each had one sustainability study, resulting in a vote for “status quo” for both. It would take considerable investment and renovations to upgrade McAdam High School (100+ years old) in transforming it into a K-12 school. The rationalization of the two McAdam schools was added as a project to the SDIP this past year. We expect a new school will be built in the community, with potential funding for the project beginning in 3-4 years, should the current pattern of funding remain. We do not plan on conducting another sustainability study for either of the McAdam schools.



Tobique Valley High School – has not had a sustainability study completed in the past. This is due to the isolated location of the Village of Plaster Rock. Either this year or next year, it is the intention of ASD-W to include the two Plaster Rock schools in a further assessment on suitability for a new school rationalization. At the current time, we do not have proper infrastructure to combine the two schools into one at Tobique Valley High School. We do not plan on conducting a sustainability study for Tobique Valley High School.

Upper Miramichi Elementary School (Boiestown) – has not had a sustainability study in the past 15+ years. This is due to its location with no proximity to another elementary school setting. Currently, students travel an average of 7.90 km to school, with a minimum distance of 0.19 km and a maximum distance of 21.84 km. This equates to travel time of 14.96 minutes, on average, to be delivered home (maximum is 51 minutes) and 22.62 minutes, on average, to be delivered to school (maximum is 67 minutes). If these students were to go to Doaktown Elementary School, the average distance would be 34.90 km, approximately 4.4 times further. The longest drive would be 48.84 km, and the shortest drive would be 27.19 km. None of these changes would result in reasonable drives for students, aged 5 to 11. Although moving the students to Central New Brunswick Academy (CNBA) would result in an average drive of 14.67 km (includes students from Doaktown Elementary School), CNBA would require considerable investment and renovations in order to transform it into a K-12 school. There was a community/district understanding upon the construction of CNBA that the elementary schools would remain intact. We do not plan on conducting a sustainability study for Upper Miramichi Elementary School.

For public transparency and interest, we have created a section on our website (School Profiles – District Intelligence) that outlines the details of each school in our district, including the nine noted above. These details mirror the expected information to be shared in a sustainability study. Please visit the following site to learn more: [District Intelligence](#)

If you would like to examine any of our sustainability studies in detail from the past 15 years, they can be found publicly on our website at the following link: [Sustainability Studies – Anglophone School District West](#)

Sincerely,

David McTimoney
Superintendent

cc. Wallace Carr, Chair of ASD-W DEC
Serena Bradford, Vice Chair of ASD-W DEC
Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration – ASD-W
Ryan Donaghy, Deputy Minister – Anglophone Sector, EECD
Robert Penney, Assistant Deputy Minister – Corporate Services, EECD
Pascal Landry, Infrastructure Program Manager - EECD