



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER  
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Joins the QESBA in Challenging the Validity of the Budgetary Rules

**Rosemère, August 14, 2025** — The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) has joined a legal challenge led by the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) against the Québec government's newly imposed budget rules for school boards.

These budgetary rules require the SWLSB to cut more than \$6 million from its 2025–2026 budget and could also result in a \$5.6 million penalty if the school board is unable to reduce its staffing to meet government targets. These cuts and restrictions would directly impact services to students, including those with special needs.

On July 16, 2025, the government confirmed the final budget rules. While they include a new funding measure to partially offset the cuts, access to that funding is conditional on the school board agreeing to several strict requirements:

- Reduce staffing to meet a cap set by the Ministry;
- Spend money in very specific areas chosen by the government (dedicated measures), even if they are not aligned with our community's priorities;
- Participate in regional and national mutualization projects.

These conditions prevent the school board from allocating resources based on what is best to support our students and schools. They also undermine the rights guaranteed to Québec's English-speaking community under Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which protects the community's ability to manage and control its own schools.

On August 13, 2025, the SWLSB Executive Committee unanimously passed a resolution to join QESBA's legal application, which asks the court to:

- Suspend (pause) the application of the new budget rules while the legal case is being reviewed;
- Challenge the legality of the rules and how they were imposed.

"Our duty as commissioners is to protect the quality of education and the services our students rely on. The government's budgetary rules, as they stand, would strip us of the flexibility to address our community's priorities and impose conditions already deemed unconstitutional by the courts. By joining the QESBA's challenge, we are taking a principled stand for our constitutional rights, our management autonomy, and, most importantly, for the needs of our students," said James Di Sano, Chairperson of the Council of Commissioners.

As previously stated, the Council of Commissioners remains committed to protecting student services, supporting vulnerable learners, and advocating for transparency, equity, and responsible investment in public education.

With a workforce of more than 2,000 employees, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is the third-largest English school board in the Province of Québec and has a graduation rate of 87.4%. Its territory comprises the administrative regions of Laval, Laurentides, and Lanaudière. The school board provides preschool, elementary, secondary, and adult education, together with vocational training services to over 14,000 students in 36 schools and 4 centres. It also offers business training services.

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