

Policy 2

ELECTORAL SUBDIVISIONS AND WARD BOUNDARIES

Section 76(1) of the Education Act provides that the Board of a school division may by bylaw, provide for the nomination and election of trustees by wards and determine the boundaries of the wards.

Section 76(4) of the Education Act provides that a board shall establish, implement and make publicly available a policy respecting the considerations and process used by the Board to determine ward structures.

The Board may from time to time undertake a review of electoral wards to ensure that effective and equal representation is maintained. Such a review shall consider both the number of trustees and the ward boundaries.

This policy is intended to inform elections held under the Local Authorities Election Act.

A review of ward boundaries shall include consultation with appropriate stakeholders.

When reviewing wards boundaries, the Board may take into consideration any factors it considers appropriate, but shall take into consideration the following criteria:

1. **Number of Trustees:** Consideration shall be given as to the number of trustees required for effective governance keeping in mind the prudent use of resources, workload and accessibility.
2. **Population/Number of Electors:** The primary factor in designing ward boundaries will be total number of electors; attempting to ensure that population is relatively equal between wards. The population of deviation between wards should be within +/- 25% of the average of all the electoral divisions.
3. **Easily Identifiable Borders:** Ward boundaries should be clear and easily identifiable so as to avoid voter confusion. Roads, existing municipal boundaries or geographical features should be used for boundaries. In so far as it is possible they should avoid having a voter go to two different polling stations for municipal and school board elections.
4. **Communities of Interest:** Where possible wards should respect communities of interest and community organizations. Wards should not be coterminous with transportation areas.

Reference: Section 76, 78 Education Act
Policy 7 Board Operations
Bylaw No. 1/10 Electoral Subdivisions and Ward Boundaries

Amended: April 28th, 2022