

# THE PERFECT STORM: FIVE MAJOR COST PRESSURES



## ENROLMENT GROWTH

Enrolment has grown 16% over the past decade — adding more than 2,400 students — which has sharply increased the need for additional staff, classrooms, buses, and school space.



## INFLATION RATES

From 2016–2024, cumulative inflation rose 26.37% — peaking at 7.9% in 2022 — driving up costs for staffing, utilities, learning materials, transportation, and building maintenance.



## PANDEMIC IMPACT

The number of students requiring specialized support has surged from about 1,400 pre-pandemic to more than 3,600 today — now representing 1 in 5 students and driving significantly higher support needs across schools.



## AUSTERITY FALLOUT

From 2016–2023, provincial austerity kept funding flat and limited local revenue while enrolment, inflation, the pandemic, and infrastructure needs grew — resulting in more students with greater needs but less funding per child.



## AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Most LRSD schools are 50–100 years old, creating major infrastructure pressures — from aging HVAC and roofs to urgent accessibility, electrical, plumbing, and energy-efficiency upgrades.



**Student enrolment** ballooned.  
**Student needs** continue to grow.  
**Infrastructure** is aging.

**Costs** are rising.  
**Funding** needs to keep up.

