

**Prince Edward Island
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**

SCHOOL STUDY REPORT 2025-2026

QUEEN ELIZABETH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Director Tracy Beaulieu
March 12, 2026**

***Report received by PSB Board of Trustees March 12, 2026**

1. INTRODUCTION

As per **PSB Board Policy GP14, School Review**, and in accordance with the recommendation of the PSB Board of Trustees at a duly called public meeting on April 22, 2025 to conduct an in-depth study of Queen Elizabeth Elementary School and determine options for change, this report summarizes the work performed in completing this task. The report provides an overview of data collected as part of this process as well as short-term and long-term solutions to program and capacity issues as identified within the current school and/or resulting from enrolment growth.

2. BACKGROUND

Queen Elizabeth Elementary School was constructed in 1976 to serve the students of the Town of Kensington and the surrounding rural areas (it shares boundaries with Greenfield Elementary, Elm Street Elementary, Athena Consolidated, Somerset Consolidated and Gulf Shore Consolidated). Following Grade 6, QEES students attend Kensington Intermediate Senior High. Students wishing to enrol in French Immersion at the elementary level are zoned for Parkside Elementary School in Summerside.

QEES had an enrolment of 346 students as of September 2025. The school currently has 30 professional staff for administration, classroom teaching, a learning support program known as PBIS (Positive Behaviour Intervention Support), Guidance, Music, Physical Education, Core French, Resource and Foundations® (a Grade K-3 literacy program). Staff includes 12 Educational Assistants/Support Staff, an Administrative Assistant, 3 custodial staff and 11 bus drivers (shared runs with Kensington Intermediate Senior High School).

The following table of school enrolments provides an historical perspective as well as projections for the next ten years. The table illustrates moderate growth from 2020 to 2024 but also indicates little change over the next several years. However, the current enrolment causes significant challenges for the school as all classrooms are utilized for class groups and all available individual or small group spaces (including a number of repurposed areas such as Teacher Preparation/Storage rooms, former Computer Lab, material storage, etc.) are dedicated to student support. While completion of a built-on-site classroom in September 2025 allowed the Core French teacher to have a new teaching space thus allowing the Library to return to its intended use as well as provide an as-needed space for student support, the overall space utilization of the school is well beyond capacity.

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
333	340	350	354	368	346	346	346	342	337	332	335	345	342	344	344

Note: The **projected enrolments** do not allow for the residential growth expected in this area.

From a community perspective, the Town of Kensington is experiencing growth in population (1,454 in 2011, 1,618 in 2016 and 1,743 in 2021 – Source: Canada Census 2016, 2021). In comparing the Town of Kensington to other municipalities in PEI, the 2021 Census indicated it is ranked only behind Cornwall and Stratford in terms of population growth. In a CBC News release dated August 7, 2024, Mayor Rowan Caseley noted the projected population was expected to be 2,400 by the end of 2024. The next official census is scheduled for May 2026.

The Town of Kensington is demonstrating residential growth with 78 multiplexes/ apartment units currently under construction and expected to be available for occupancy within the next year if not already occupied. The PEI Housing Corporation recently completed a 10-unit building (five one-bedroom, three two-bedroom and two three-bedroom units) under the social housing initiative. An additional 12 units (3 buildings) are under construction on Sunset Drive. As well, the Town has initiated preliminary discussions on a developer application for rezoning land off Old Summerside Road for the construction of three Multi-Unit residential units (12-unit apartment houses). The long-range plan for the adjacent land would provide an additional 86 lots accommodating single and multi-unit residences. The impact of these new spaces will undoubtedly lead to growth of school populations whether it be new families occupying these residences or community members relocating and thus generating additional housing opportunities for residents new to the greater Kensington area.

****PLEASE NOTE:** The residential developments noted above, being recent or proposed projects, are not reflected in the projected enrolments indicated above thus suggesting the future student numbers will be considerably higher than currently projected in the table above. In the 2021 census, the average number of children in census families with children was 1.7 while approximately 1/3 of the households had children. If the 100+ residential units continued this trend, there would be approximately 50 ($\frac{1}{3} \times 1.7 \times 100 = 50$) additional students within the Kensington area.

3. CAPACITY USAGE

As Queen Elizabeth Elementary School is currently exceeding its capacity of classrooms and student support spaces, there is an obvious need for additional space. Recognizing the number of classrooms needed is determined by a combination of total enrolment and numbers of students at each grade level in establishing how many regular classrooms are needed on an annual basis, the student support spaces are likewise subject to the needs of individual students and therefore also change annually (if not more often).

Acknowledging there is a preferred maximum of 15 Kindergarten students per class and an absolute cap of 18 students in determining the number of classrooms allocated for Kindergarten classes, each school calculates a determination of how many rooms will be used for Kindergarten each year once the Kindergarten numbers are finalized. In the other grades, the

Board is funded by a formula that assigns a staff member at 1:22 for Grades 1-3 and 1:25 for Grades 4-6; it is this formula that is used to assign teaching staff to each school and allows the school administration to generally determine how many classes at each grade level. Frequently, the numbers at any one grade level do not “fit” the formula and schools sometimes create multigrade groupings (ex. split grades such as a Grade 2/3 mix). There may also be unique circumstances within a school or grade that warrant alternative staffing decisions.

In 2025-26, for example, QEES has the following configuration:

Grade	# of groups	Students	Students	Students
K	3	12	12	13
1	3	16	15	15
2	3	17	18	18
3	3	17	17	18
4	3	17	17	18
5	2	25	25	
6	2	28	28	
	19			

NOTE: The Grade 4 groups are combined into 2 larger classes (26,26) for half of each day.

QEES has 19 regular classrooms plus a Music Room, Gymnasium, Multipurpose Room (used by CHANCES for afterschool childcare services), Resource Room (former Computer Lab), Core French classroom and Library. As noted above, a built-on-site classroom was added in 2025-26.

Spaces for student support were limited in the original design of the school in 1976 and these spaces have been subsequently created, as needed, by conversion of other areas such as Teacher Planning Centres, former Computer Lab and Book Room/Storage. At times, support educational staff utilize hallway space or shared areas like the Library or multipurpose room to work with individual students.

In terms of capacity for anticipated growth and the pending possibility of additional homeroom classes as well as the continuing need for additional student support areas and storage areas, it is incumbent upon the PSB to identify pathways to provide additional school space. The additional “cottage” built this year is an example of short-term relief to this problem.

4. ADDITIONAL SPACE OPTIONS

Possible solutions to a space shortage would typically include:

- a. conversion of existing floor space within the present facility
- b. placement of a built-on-site classroom (separate from existing building) – *an operational decision made by the PSB on an annual basis as it reviews projected school enrollments across its 56 schools each spring
- c. construction of a permanent addition to the building

- d. movement of a grade to another school (i.e. Kensington Intermediate Senior High)
- e. rezoning to assign students to surrounding schools

Option “a”, conversion of existing floor space, is not a viable option as there are no surplus spaces within the current facility.

Option “b”, one or more classrooms built on site, would be a viable strategy that would add instructional and/or support space. However, the long-term possibility of additional classes through increased enrolment would not be addressed with a single structure thus meaning two or more would be needed. As these buildings are located away from the main building, there is the concern of student and staff travel between the main school and the offset classroom. At best, this may be a short-term solution.

Option “c”, a permanent addition to the main building, is the preferred option as it would represent a solution to the need for both classroom and student support spaces. An addition to the school with classrooms and student support spaces that would be easily available to the entire school through connected hallways would address the capacity and program issues while also allowing the school to reclaim areas previously converted for student support.

Option “d”, relocating Grade 6 to KISH, is a possibility as the secondary school currently has two classrooms that could be retrofitted as regular classrooms. However, as the population of KISH will likely grow in sync with the elementary, this option may not serve as a long-term solution and is not seen as a viable option.

Option “e” is not seen as viable due to current capacity enrolments at Somerset Consolidated, Greenfield Elementary, Elm Street Elementary, Athena Consolidated, Gulf Shore Consolidated and Central Queens Elementary.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- a. It is recommended that the Public Schools Branch request the Province of Prince Edward Island construct a permanent addition to Queen Elizabeth Elementary School in Kensington, PEI with sufficient space to provide six (6) classrooms and a minimum of eight (8) student support areas.**
- b. It is recommended the situation at Kensington Intermediate Senior High be monitored.**