



# Bluewater District School Board

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AJ Keene, *Director of Education*

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March 31, 2026

Distributed to individual election clerks by email

Election Clerks – Municipalities of Bruce and Grey

## **RE: Representation on and Elections to District School Boards**

Pursuant to Ontario Regulation 412/00 of the Education Act, school boards are responsible for trustee determination and distribution calculations for the upcoming municipal election in October 2026.

You will find attached a copy of the final report entitled “Trustee Election 2026 – Trustee Determination and Distribution” which was recently considered by Bluewater District School Board. This report includes the trustee determination and distribution calculations for the upcoming election. The number of elected trustees (nine) and their distribution across the municipalities remain unchanged from the last term of office (2022-2026).

Please note that the following municipalities have the largest population within the electoral group and that, in accordance with the regulation, the clerks of these municipalities are responsible for receiving the nominations for the school board trustee:

Township of Georgian Bluffs  
Municipality of Meaford  
City of Owen Sound  
Municipality of Grey Highlands  
Municipality of West Grey  
Town of Saugeen Shores  
Municipality of Brockton  
Municipality of Kincardine  
Town of South Bruce Peninsula

Thank you for your continued support of public education.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Director’s Assistant / Corporate Services Supervisor Crystal Myles by phone at 226-908-5738 or by email at [Crystal.Myles@bwdsb.on.ca](mailto:Crystal.Myles@bwdsb.on.ca).

Sincerely,

AJ Keene  
Director of Education

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## Trustee Election 2026 – Trustee Determination and Distribution

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Before each general election, every board of trustees must determine the number of trustee positions on their board and distribute these positions across the board's area of jurisdiction. This process is known as trustee determination and distribution.
- 1.2 As a result of historical amendments to the Education Act, the number of elected trustees in each board was set at the number determined for the 2006 regular election. This number applied to all subsequent regular elections. The number of trustees for Bluewater District School Board was set at nine (9).

### 2.0 Strategic Link(s)

- 2.1 The trustee determination and distribution process plays an important role in ensuring that representation on school boards is democratic and fair.

### 3.0 Key Considerations

#### 3.1 Population of Electoral Group Report

- 3.1.1 Calculations are based on the Population of Electoral Group (PEG) report received from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) in February 2026. The PEG report contains data on the population of the electoral group for each of the local municipalities within the jurisdiction of Bluewater District School Board.

#### 3.2 Calculation of Trustee Distribution Factors

- 3.2.1 The attached Trustee Distribution Chart 1 (Appendix 1), demonstrates the distribution of the nine trustees based on the electoral group population in each municipality in Bruce and Grey Counties.
- 3.2.2 The attached Trustee Distribution Chart 2 (Appendix 1), combines municipalities for representation. This has been done on the basis of geographic proximity and the sum of electoral quotients for the combined area approximating a whole number. The distribution of Bluewater trustees is identical to that determined for the elections in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022 as the electoral quotients have changed very little over that time.

## **4.0 Resource Implications**

### **4.1 Board Resolution Regarding Low Population Municipalities**

4.1.1 School boards whose area of jurisdiction includes more than one municipality must pass a resolution by March 31, 2026, either designating one or more municipalities as low population municipalities, or declaring that no such designation will be made (O.Reg. 412/00, s.4). The number of low population areas does not affect the total number of trustees for the board.

### **4.2 Board Resolution Regarding Voluntary Reduction of Board Members**

4.2.1 School boards may reduce the number of elected trustees below the number provided for in the Education Act and O. Reg. 412/00, but not below the minimum number of five members. If this option is chosen, a resolution must be passed by March 31, 2026.

## **5.0 Next Steps**

5.1 By March 31 of an election year, school boards are required to review their Determination and Distribution Report. The report must be submitted to the Minister of Education, election clerks for all municipalities within the board's jurisdiction, and the secretary of every other board, who is wholly or partially within the board's area of jurisdiction, by April 3.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- 1. That Bluewater District School Board determines that no area within the board's jurisdiction is considered a low population area for election purposes.**
- 2. That Bluewater District School Board does not voluntarily reduce the number of trustees to be elected below the number provided for in the Act and Ontario Regulation 412/00, in the election of 2026.**
- 3. That Bluewater District School Board approve the Trustee Determination of nine (9) Trustees, and the Trustee Distribution (see Appendix 1, Chart 2) contained in the 'Trustee Election 2026 – Trustee Determination and Distribution' report.**

Submitted to  
Bluewater District School Board  
March 24, 2026

For further information, please contact  
AJ Keene, Director of Education

# Appendix 1

**Trustee Distribution (Chart 1)**

Name of Municipality / Ward	Electoral Group Population	Electoral Quotient
Arran-Elderslie	5075	.36
Blue Mountains	8074	.58
Brockton	5840	.42
Chatsworth	5095	.37
Georgian Bluffs	8556	.61
Grey Highlands	7704	.55
Hanover	5352	.38
Huron-Kinloss	5402	.39
Kincardine	8596	.62
Meaford	9037	.65
Northern Bruce Peninsula	3732	.27
Owen Sound	15017	1.08
Saugeen Shores	11028	.79
South Bruce	3091	.22
South Bruce Peninsula	7151	.51
Southgate	6709	.48
West Grey	10017	.72
Total	125476	9

**Trustee Distribution (Chart 2)**

Municipality		Electoral Group Population	Electoral Quotient		Trustee Allocation
Township of Georgian Bluffs	N	8,556	.61	.98	1
Township of Chatsworth		5,095	.37		
Municipality of Meaford	N	9,037	.65	1.23	1
Town of The Blue Mountains		8,074	.58		
City of Owen Sound	N	15,017	1.08	1.08	1
Township of Southgate		6,709	.48	1.03	1
Municipality of Grey Highlands	N	7,704	.55		
Municipality of West Grey	N	10,017	.72	1.1	1
Town of Hanover		5,352	.38		
Town of Saugeen Shores	N	11,028	.79	1.15	1
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie		5,075	.36		
Municipality of Brockton	N	5,840	.42	0.64	1
Municipality of South Bruce		3,091	.22		
Municipality of Kincardine	N	8,596	.62	1.01	1
Municipality of Huron-Kinloss		5,402	.39		
Town of South Bruce Peninsula	N	7,151	.51	0.78	1
Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula		3,732	.27		
TOTALS		125,476	9.0	9	9

**N** – Denotes the municipality responsible for receiving nominations for school board trustee.