



# WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Report to Parents and Taxpayers on the Board's

## DISTANT AND RURAL SCHOOLS GRANT

In September of 2003 the Ministry of Education implemented a Rural Education Strategy Grant, intended to provide supports to students attending schools meeting certain distance criteria. The grant is now referred to as the Distant and Rural Schools Grant.

For the 2005-2006 school year, five of the Board's elementary schools meet the Ministry's criteria to generate a grant. None of our secondary schools qualify.

The estimated Distant and Rural Schools Grant provided for the 2005-2006 year is \$345,733.

The Board will use the grant to provide the following supports to the qualifying schools:

### **Increased Funding for School Budgets**

Operating budgets of distant schools have been increased for the 2005-2006 school year to enhance each school's compliment of learning materials, library books, textbooks, and other necessary supplies. Having better resources available to students increases each learner's chances of success.

### **Water Safety**

Our distant schools use septic systems for sewage and wells for drinking water. Significant repairs and maintenance to these systems are scheduled to be performed during the year to help ensure optimal water quality and potability.

### **Increased Staffing**

Additional staff time has been allocated to our rural schools, resulting in increased safety, security and supervision during the school day.

### **Other Costs**

The Board will incur other costs related to the operation of distant schools such as increased courier and delivery charges, higher telecommunication costs and increased maintenance costs.

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The Waterloo Catholic District School Board serves over 30,000 students in 47 elementary schools, 5 secondary schools, and 2 Adult Education facilities within the Region of Waterloo.

For more information, please contact  
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"With the gift of the Catholic Faith, Our Mission is: Learning, growing and transforming the world together as faithful disciples of the Risen Lord."