



## *We value:*

- each and every student
- a strong public education system
- a partnership of students, schools, family, and community
- the uniqueness and diversity of our students and our community
- the commitment and skills of our staff
- equity, innovation, accountability, and accessibility
- learning environments that are safe, nurturing, positive, and respectful.

## *Our mission*

is to enable all students to reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become responsible members of a democratic society.

Main Switchboard 416-397-3000  
TDSB Web site [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca)

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**September 2009**

# SCHOOL MATTERS

## A Parent's Guide to the TDSB





## Message from the Chair

The TDSB and parents share a common goal, which is to see each and every student succeed to the best of their ability, so that when they graduate from our schools, real options are available for their future. Parental involvement is one of the keys to students' success, and we welcome parents' input. That involvement goes beyond attending teacher-parent interviews, and includes taking a genuine interest in your child's daily schooling activity and in the overall health of your local school.

John Campbell  
*Chair of the Board*



## Message from the Director of Education

Welcome to another great year of learning and growing. This is your school – a place to make discoveries and friends. It is a learning community that welcomes families, brings people together, and opens a doorway to the world.

Children arrive in Kindergarten with an eager light in their eyes, ready to grab life with both hands. My goal is to make sure that light is still burning bright as they walk across the stage on graduation day.

Learning is an adventure that begins at birth and lasts a lifetime. It happens at home, at school, on the play-ground, and every minute of every day. Success starts with having high expectations for every child, but it doesn't end there. If we ask a lot of our children, we must ask even more of ourselves.

Education is a shared responsibility. I believe it is up to all of us: teachers, parents, families and communities, to provide knowledge, skills and confidence, encouragement and example, environments that are secure yet doors that are open to the world. As elders and mentors, our job is to make sure all children have the opportunity to explore in safety, and the support they need to be successful.

Students, your job is to make the most of every day and every experience. Be curious. Ask questions. Read and see and learn everything you can. Get involved in your school community and involve others to make a difference. Most of all, believe in yourself. Because we believe in you!

Dr. Chris Spence  
*Director of Education*

## Parents! Get involved and be heard...

Parent involvement in education is critical to student success. Let your voice be heard about school board policies and programs that affect your children. Join one of the TDSB's seven Community Advisory Committees: Early Years, Equity Policy, French, Inner City, Parent Involvement, Alternative Schools and Special Education.

# School Year 2009-2010



Labour Day	September 7, 2009
Thanksgiving	October 12, 2009
Christmas Break (last day of school is Dec. 21, 2009. School resumes Jan. 7, 2010)	Dec. 21, 2009 to Jan. 1, 2010 inclusive
Family Day	February 10, 2010
Mid-Winter Break	March 15 to 19, 2010 inclusive
Good Friday	April 2, 2010
Easter Monday	April 5, 2010
Victoria Day	May 24, 2010

\*Semestered secondary schools have the option of replacing the June 24 date with January 31 for semester changeover.

## Frequently Called Numbers

General Information Switchboard: 416-397-3000 TDSB web site: [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca)

Board Meetings .....416-397-3284	Permits .....416-395-7666
Childcare Services .....416-394-2072	<b>E-mail <a href="mailto:permits@tdsb.on.ca">permits@tdsb.on.ca</a></b>
Community Involvement (40-hour volunteer requirement).....416-394-7178	Scholarships/Trusts .....416-395-8006/8242
Continuing Education .....416-338-4000	School Attendance Areas/Boundaries .....416-394-7526
Driver Education .....416-397-3309	<b>E-mail <a href="mailto:planning@tdsb.on.ca">planning@tdsb.on.ca</a></b>
Education Quality & Accountability Office – EQAO .....1-888-327-7377	School Councils .....416-397-3529
<b><a href="http://www.eqao.com">www.eqao.com</a></b>	Special Education
Emergency – After Hours .....416-395-4620	South East .....416-396-4984
Equity .....416-394-7302	North East .....416-396-9003
Fundraising Hotline .....416-397-3510	South West .....416-394-3763
GED – General Educational Development.....416-481-6043	North West.....416-394-7406
<b>1-888-433-1211</b>	Student SuperCouncil .....416-393-8100
<b><a href="http://www.ged.on.ca">www.ged.on.ca</a></b>	<b>E-mail <a href="mailto:supercouncil@tdsb.on.ca">supercouncil@tdsb.on.ca</a></b>
Human Rights Office .....416-393-1029	TeleHealth Ontario .....1-866-797-0000
International & Visa Students .....416-395-8109	Toronto Foundation for Student Success.....416-394-6880
<b>E-mail <a href="mailto:tlsp@tdsb.on.ca">tlsp@tdsb.on.ca</a></b>	<b><a href="http://www.studentsuccess.ca">www.studentsuccess.ca</a></b>
E-Learning/Virtual School .....416-396-8481	Toronto Public Health .....416-338-7600
<b>E-mail <a href="mailto:vs@tdsb.on.ca">vs@tdsb.on.ca</a></b>	<b><a href="http://www.toronto.ca/health">www.toronto.ca/health</a></b>
Newcomer Reception Centres	Transcripts .....416-396-4783
East – 24 Mountjoy Ave (Greenwood Subway) .....416-393-0750	<b>E-mail <a href="mailto:transcript@tdsb.on.ca">transcript@tdsb.on.ca</a></b>
West – 777 Bloor Street West (Christie Subway).....416-393-1444	Transportation
Nutrition Services .....416-394-7494	South East .....416-394-6163
Ontario College Application Services – OCAS .....1-888-892-2228	North East .....416-394-6175
<b><a href="http://www.ontariocolleges.ca">www.ontariocolleges.ca</a></b>	South West .....416-394-6184
Ontario Universities’ Application Centre – OUAC.....1-519-823-1940	North West.....416-394-7379
<b><a href="http://www.ouac.on.ca">www.ouac.on.ca</a></b>	<b>E-mail <a href="mailto:transportation@tdsb.on.ca">transportation@tdsb.on.ca</a></b>
	Trustees’ Services .....416-397-3061

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School Matters: A Parent's Guide to the TDSB is published for you, the parents. As partners in your children's education, we want to keep you informed of the programs and services we provide, the policies that guide us, and other important information.

We hope that you find this publication informative and helpful during the 2009–2010 school year.

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# Who is the TDSB?

## Who We Are: Facts and Figures About the TDSB

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) was created on January 1, 1998, by the amalgamation of seven individual Boards of Education. Serving 1.6 million electors of the City of Toronto, we are the largest school board in Canada and sixth largest in North America. The city is divided into 22 wards and public school supporters elect a school trustee to represent each ward.

## Our People, Our Schools

- 257,000 elementary and secondary students
- 16,054 teachers
- 1,000 principals and vice-principals 1,000
- 595 elementary, secondary, alternative, and specialized schools on 562 sites
- 4,595 classroom support staff (Special Education and regular programs)
- 155,000 Continuing Education students
- 3,700 school office staff and caretaking staff

## Our Diversity

- 75+ languages represented in our schools (not including regional dialect)
- (24%) of our students were born outside of Canada, in 175+ countries
- Canada's most culturally rich school board

## Our Student Success

- More than 40% of our students graduate as Ontario Scholars, achieving an 80% average in their top six courses
- Better than 80% of our graduates apply for university or college admission
- Approximately 75% of all students entering Grade 9 will graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

## Our Commitment to Learning

- TDSB supports life-long learning, from early childhood to adult continuing education
- We're committed to helping all our students to reach their full learning potential.

## Our Funding

- Provincial education grants are tied to student enrolment - when the number of students rises or falls, it impacts our funding.
- Since 2001, our enrolment has fallen by approximately 13% or 36,000 students, and is projected to decline by a further 3,300 students.

FUNDING  
BUDGET

## Our Budget

At a Board meeting on June 29, TDSB Trustees approved a balanced budget with total operating expenditures of \$2.5 billion for the 2009/10 school year. This budget focuses on priority areas of teaching and learning, student success and supports for vulnerable students. The budget process also took two important steps toward long-term budget sustainability and to address the impact of declining enrollment:

1. The Toronto Lands Corporation (TLC) established in 2007 to make the most of the Board's under-utilized capital assets
2. The Better Schools, Brighter Future process, which takes TDSB to the next level through a multi-year strategy supporting investment in school consolidation, up-to-date programs and school buildings to meet the 21st century needs of students and communities

For more information on our budget, please visit our web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) and click on **About Us**, scroll down the right hand side and click on **TDSB Budget**.

# Safe & Caring Schools

## Safe & Caring Schools Department

Keeping our schools safe is a collective responsibility and it starts by encouraging responsible and respectful behaviour at all times. A safe and caring learning and working environment for students, staff, and visitors is of primary importance to the TDSB. The TDSB Safe and Caring Schools, Occupational Health & Safety, and Facility Services departments work in partnership with other Board departments such as Support Services, Attendance, Guidance, Equity, Special Education and Personal and Social Skills Development to promote and support effective school planning, system and school-based prevention programs, student leadership and training initiatives, and professional development programs. These departments also work in partnership with parents, parent groups, the community, and other organizations and partners to address any and all safety concerns.

## Safe & Caring Schools

The TDSB supports a safe and caring learning and working environment for students, staff, and visitors. All schools prepare for emergency situations with lockdown drills, fire drills, and prevention programs and staff are well-trained to respond in such situations. Some schools have safety monitors in place for support. School Resource Officers also support many of our Secondary schools. The TDSB works with parents, parent groups, the community, and other organizations to address safety concerns as all schools have a Safe and Caring Schools Committee. Parents and community partners are welcome to work with their local school to help develop safe and caring school plans and programs.

In June 2008, the TDSB revised its Code of Conduct Policy in keeping with Ministry directives and developed an operation procedure Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour. The TDSB also revised the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy. In keeping with Ministry directives regarding progressive discipline, the TDSB developed a new Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour Policy. This policy provides a range of interventions, supports and consequences to address

inappropriate behaviour and promote positive student action. A variety of programs have also been added to meet the needs of suspended and/or expelled students.

## Empowering Student Partnerships (ESP)

ESP is a student-led partnership between the Toronto Police Service, the Safe Schools Network, City Council, ProAction and all the school boards in the City of Toronto. The primary focus of ESP is to empower students to plan, organize, and execute a year-long safe schools initiative in their local schools and communities. A priority of ESP is to collaborate with Toronto Police in addressing one of their service priorities, youth victimization and violence. A central steering committee, chaired by the Toronto Police with memberships from all involved constituents helps to organize main events, promote activities, and support the work undertaken by a local ESP Committee in each school. Local ESP school-based committees will meet on a regular basis at their school to plan and execute their activity. Representatives from each local school's ESP committee will meet monthly with Toronto Police and board staff in Divisional Meetings. Three times a year the Divisional Committee will meet at a Central City-wide Committee to look at broader issues and help plan larger proactive activities.

Primary funding for this initiative is through ProAction (a voluntary network of corporate sponsors dedicated to initiatives involving Toronto Police). Additional funding will be made available through the Safe Schools Network and some corporate sponsors.

Students involved directly in ESP activities will be able to earn their 40 hours of community service required for high school graduation.

This year, the TDSB expanded its highly successful ESP program to 66 schools with Grades 7 and 8 classes. The Safe and Caring Schools Office is working to expand the program to include all of our schools. Together the ESP program, at the elementary and secondary school levels, is the single largest student-led safety program in all of Canada.





## Safe & Caring Schools (cont.)

### School Resource Officers

In September 2008, the TDSB in partnership with the Toronto Police Service launched the School Resource Officer (SRO) Initiative in 21 schools across the City. This year the program has been expanded to 36 schools. The goal of the SRO Initiative is to develop and enhance relationships with students, staff and parents to help foster environments of trust and openness in our school communities.

### Safe Arrival Program

TDSB elementary schools have a child Safe Arrival program. Once attendance is checked and a child is found to be absent without notice the school will call the emergency numbers provided by the parents/guardians. For more information, or to give advance absence notice, please contact your local school.

### Bullying Prevention

**“Let’s Stop the Bullying”** is a Resource for Elementary School Communities is a comprehensive elementary school program emphasizing specific ways to develop a safe and caring community. This TDSB developed curriculum looks at ways to challenge bullying behaviour while providing strategies and resources to build up those who are engaged with bullies. This anti-bullying focus or program can be part of a good school-wide safe school plan. It consists of strategies for administrators to enhance current practices already in place in schools. It includes a series of classroom lessons from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Every school in the TDSB is expected to have a Bully Prevention Program operating in their school. The TDSB has established a process of accountability to ensure that prevention programs like Bully Prevention are in place and are active.

### Reporting Abuse

The Child and Family Services Act requires that anyone who has a suspicion that a child is being abused or neglected will report the situation to a Children’s Aid Society. There are four Centres in Toronto.

They are:

- Children’s Aid Society of Toronto: 416-924-4646
- Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto: 416-395-1500
- Jewish Child and Family Services of Toronto: 416-638-7800
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto: 416-969-8510

For further information on the TDSB’s policy, visit the TDSB web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), click on “About Us” then “Policies.” Enter “reporting abuse” in the search box.

### SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close schools. In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed by 6:00 a.m. Tune into your local radio and television stations for the latest information. If weather conditions become extreme after students are in school, a decision to close schools will be made by 11:00 a.m. and broadcast by noon.

In this case, elementary students will remain in the school until they are picked up by a parent or parent designate. It is recommended that: parents/guardians keep children at home if weather conditions appear to be extreme; become familiar with the Severe Weather operational procedures PR.519 COM found on the Board web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca); listen to designated radio stations for school closures beginning at 6:30 a.m. or for possible early closing at noon; provide school with emergency telephone number for child; be prepared to pick child up or make arrangements for the welfare and safety of child if required.

### SEVERE WEATHER

## Police Reference Checks

Regulation 521/01 (now 322/03) of the Education Act requires school boards to collect a Police Reference Check (PRC). All employees of the TDSB must complete a police reference check as part of the employment process prior to commencing work. Once a PRC has been collected under this Regulation, school boards are required to collect, on an annual basis, an “Offence Declaration” (a form to update a person’s information on file by declaring any new criminal code convictions). As of September 1, 2004, all volunteers in schools are also required to complete a police reference check according to the standards outlined in the Volunteer and Police Checks document. Once the PRC is completed an annual Offence Declaration form is also required each school year. All Service Providers are required to complete a police reference check through the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) and present the OESC card to the school office when entering a school. All post secondary co-op students completing practicums and those individuals seeking volunteer experience to assist their entry into faculties of education are required to contact the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) for their police reference check. They must also present the OESC card to the school office.

If you require more information, please call [416-393-0759](tel:416-393-0759).

## Visitors

TDSB schools are the heart of the community. Visitors to schools are welcome and must begin their visit by reporting to the main office and signing in with staff. Each school has its own procedure regarding safety. Doors that are locked are to be respected and we ask that all visitors adhere to the school’s safety procedures. This is to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, parents, and staff.



### THE TORONTO POLICE SERVICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM FIVE-CORE CURRICULUM

*The TPS Elementary School Safety Program’s Five-Core Curriculum teaches elementary school children about:*

Traffic Safety–Junior & Senior Kindergarten

Safe Kids & Street Proofing–Grade 2

Bullying–Grade 5

Drug Awareness, Youth & The Law–Grade 6

Youth Violence & Gangs–Grade 8

*“Educating children about personal safety, youth violence, and youth victimization are the keys to the reduction of youth violent crime and increase in community safety...”*



## Safe Schools (cont.)

# Student



# SAFETY LINE

# 416-395-SAFE(7233)

# [www.tdsb.on.ca/safetyline](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/safetyline)

### FIRST AID

Should your child suddenly become ill or injured, school staff will tend to his or her immediate needs and contact you. It is imperative that you provide the school with current emergency contact information. If you or an appointed guardian cannot be reached immediately, your child will be supervised at school. If emergency services are required, they will be contacted. Each of our schools has staff members with first aid training.

FIRST  
AID

### LONG-TERM ILLNESS

Should your child need to stay away from school for an extended period of time, you can arrange to receive appropriate learning materials and curriculum outlines from your school. We also have programs for children in hospital. Talk to your principal for further information.

### ALLERGIES AND MEDICATION

Many schools are peanut-free zones to protect children with allergies. If your child is allergic to something that may be present in the school, or if your child needs to be given special medication throughout the day, speak to the principal to discuss arrangements.

# Getting Started

## Starting School

Starting school is a big step in your child's life. At the TDSB, your child is entering a school system that values the uniqueness and diversity of all its students and works to provide each and every student with an outstanding education. As a parent, you are your child's most important teacher. Because children achieve higher success when parents work closely with schools, we invite you to be involved in every aspect of your child's education. You can help your child to be successful by:

- preparing your child for the first school experience by visiting the school and playing on the schoolyard
- getting to know your child's teacher and school principal
- talking with your child about things that happen at school
- attending school events or parenting programs offered by the school
- attending parent-teacher conferences

You can become further involved by joining the school council and participating in school activities. Before the first day of school, take some time to visit the school with your child so that the route to school, the building, and the surroundings become familiar.

For more information on ways to support your child at home, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), click on "Programs," then "Kindergarten," in the "key links" and "Frequently Asked Questions."

## Immunization

It is the law in Ontario for all children attending school to be immunized against serious diseases, or to provide a valid exemption as regulated by The Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA). Primary students need to be up-to-date with diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines. Secondary students need diphtheria and tetanus boosters in adolescence (usually between age 14 and 16).

Each year, Toronto Public Health reviews the immunization records of TDSB students for receipt of mandatory vaccines or for a valid exemption. To protect the health of all, children without an up-to-date record may be suspended from school, until parents provide this information or file an exemption with Toronto Public Health.

To learn more, call the Toronto Public Health Immunization Information Line at 416-392-1250 or visit [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health).



## Getting Started (cont.)

### Admissions

Every child who lives in Toronto is welcome to attend a TDSB school and can register at any time during the school year. For more information, visit the International Programs and Admissions office at 5050 Yonge Street, call [416-395-8109](tel:416-395-8109) or [416-395-9618](tel:416-395-9618), or e-mail [admissions@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:admissions@tdsb.on.ca).

Parents of students aged 4 to 13 can register directly at their neighbourhood school by bringing the following items:

- Proof of age (for example, a birth certificate, passport, baptismal certificate, etc.), **and**
- Proof of home address (such as a purchase or lease agreement or a utility bill showing name and address), **and**
- Proof of custody (where applicable), **and**
- Proof of Canadian citizenship, permanent resident status, or refugee status.

### Kindergarten

To attend junior kindergarten in September, children must be four by December 31. To attend senior kindergarten, children must be five by December 31.

**February** is registration month in TDSB schools. If parents miss the February registration, the TDSB welcomes families to register their children for kindergarten at any time before school starts. For registration dates and times, please call your local public school.

For more information about kindergarten, visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) click on “Programs,” then “Kindergarten,” in the “key links” section.

### Parenting and Family Literacy Centres

Parenting and Family Literacy centres are TDSB programs where parents and caregivers participate in active learning through play with their infants and young children. These free programs are located in 54 schools and positively introduce parents to an integrated early learning environment. This helps prepare children for school entry and builds positive connections to the child’s future school. Parents and caregivers must attend with the child. The centres are located in 54 schools across the city. Call [416-394-2067](tel:416-394-2067) for more information.

### How to Find Your School

Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. The on-line TDSB Street Guide identifies the designated schools for each residential address. Visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) and select “Find Your School” from the menu.

## Optional Attendance

Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying for optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability. The procedures, conditions, and timelines relating to optional attendance are described in the Optional Attendance policy and the Optional Attendance operational procedure found on the TDSB web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca). Each year in January, schools are classified as limited or closed to optional attendance based on the space they have available for the upcoming school year.

- A school classified as limited can accept students on optional attendance. A limited school is not obliged to accept all students who apply on optional attendance. Acceptance is conditional upon space being available in the appropriate grade and program.

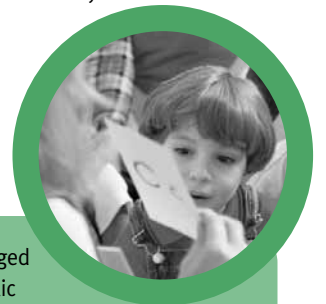
- A school classified as closed cannot accept any students on optional attendance. Only students residing within the school's attendance area will be accepted.

If a school is classified as limited and you are interested in applying to that school, please contact the school's principal.

To find a particular school's optional attendance status, visit the TDSB web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) and select "Optional Attendance" under "Parents."

Please note that the optional attendance status is updated every January for admission in September. Many schools that are limited to optional attendance have their available spaces filled in the spring. Please confirm if a limited school has space available by calling the school directly.

If you have any questions about optional attendance, please contact the school directly.



## Infectious/Communicable Diseases

### TDSB is prepared for H1N1

Over the summer the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has continued to monitor the H1N1 situation and is prepared. Information on the TDSB's H1N1 preparedness is available on the Board's website, [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), including an updated Pandemic Response Plan. This Plan outlines measures the TDSB will take to ensure ongoing communication and reassure parents and community members of our ability to respond should there be a new wave of an H1N1 outbreak.

In June 2009, a new cleaning protocol that ensures major points of hand contact such as door knobs, handrails, taps and drinking fountains are wiped down and disinfected was put in place. This proactive measure was adopted to try and slow down the spread of the virus and will continue throughout the school year.

Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to follow the directions of Toronto Public Health and remind their children to be vigilant in their personal hygiene practices. If anyone (child or parent) shows any signs of flu-like symptoms, they should stay home and follow up with your medical practitioner.

TDSB is committed to protecting the health and well being of all our students and staff and will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on new developments to students and parents when necessary.

If parents have any questions or concerns they should contact their school principal directly or visit the Board website at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) for additional information.

## Getting Started (cont.)

### STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Your child may be eligible for transportation to and from school if you live beyond the following distances:

- junior kindergarten to grade 5–1.6 km or more (school bus)
- grades 6 to 8–3.2 km or more (TTC tickets)
- grades 9 to 12–4.8 km or more (TTC tickets dependent on financial need)

Transportation may also be provided for students who have a medical condition or disability that severely limits ability to walk. If your child is placed in a Special Education class or French Immersion program not located in your home school, he or she may also be eligible for transportation. Transportation is not provided for students attending any school or special program at their request, even when distance is a factor.

To find out if your child is eligible for transportation, talk to your principal. You can also ask for a copy of the TDSB student transportation brochure from your principal or your local Transportation Office.

- Transportation, South East      416-394-6163
- Transportation, North East      416-394-6175
- Transportation, South West      416-394-6184
- Transportation, North West      416-394-7379

You can also contact Transportation via e-mail at [transportation@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:transportation@tdsb.on.ca).

**Cancellation:** In times of severe weather, the TDSB updates radio and TV stations with the status of school closures or school bus cancellations. Parents and students are advised to listen to the radio and television broadcasts for the latest news, particularly during severe weather days.

### STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

## International Students

The TDSB welcomes international students from many countries. In our schools, these students find a wide range of world-class academic, business, technological, and other specialized programs taught by highly qualified teachers. As well, international students receive English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to facilitate their rapid and smooth integration into the regular curriculum.

For more information about programs and supports for international students, call [416-395-9718](tel:416-395-9718) or [416-395-8109](tel:416-395-8109), e-mail [tisp@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:tisp@tdsb.on.ca), or visit [www.studytoronto.ca](http://www.studytoronto.ca).



## Families New to Canada

We are pleased to welcome students from around the world into our schools. Our teachers and counsellors are sensitive to the needs of students new to Canada who may need help adjusting to life in a new country.

For information about admission eligibility to TDSB schools, please contact the International Student Services and Admissions Office at [416-395-8109](tel:416-395-8109) or [416-395-9618](tel:416-395-9618) or e-mail [admissions@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:admissions@tdsb.on.ca).

We have four **Newcomer Reception Centres** to welcome and assist secondary school students new to Canada. Secondary school students will have an assessment of their English proficiency and mathematics skills at the reception centre and will then proceed to their local secondary school. Please call first to book an appointment.

Students whose home secondary school is: Bloor C.I., Central Commerce, Central Technical School, Forest Hill C.I., George Harvey C.I., Harbord C.I., Humberside C.I., Jarvis C.I., Lakeshore C.I., Lawrence Park C.I., Oakwood C.I., North Toronto S.S., Northern S.S., Parkdale C.I., Runnymede C.I., West Toronto C.I., Western Technical Commercial, Vaughan Road Academy, or York Memorial C.I., should go to the:

### WEST END RECEPTION CENTRE

The Bickford Centre  
777 Bloor Street West  
[416-393-0542](tel:416-393-0542)

*(near Christie subway station)*

Students whose home secondary school is: C.W. Jefferys S.S., Downsview S.S., Emery C.I., Etobicoke C.I., Kipling C.I., Martingorve C.I., North Albion C.I., Northview Heights S.S., Scarlett Heights E.A., Thistletown C.I., Richview C.I., Silverthorn C.I., Sir Sandford Fleming S.S., West Humber C.I., Weston C.I.,

Westview Centennial S.S., or William Lyon Mackenzie C.I., should go to the:

### THISTLETOWN RECEPTION CENTRE

20 Fordwich Crescent  
[416-394-7698](tel:416-394-7698)

*(Islington Ave. south of Finch)*

Students whose home secondary school is: Bendale BTI, Birchmount Park, Cedarbrae C.I., Danforth C.I., David and Mary Thomson C.I. Eastern Commerce, East York C.I., Leaside S.S., Malvern C.I., Marc Garneau C.I., Monarch Park C.I., RH King Academy, Riverdale C.I., Sir Oliver Mowat C.I., Sir Robert Borden BTI, W.A. Porter C.I., West Hill C.I., Wexford C.I., Wilfred Laurier C.I., Winston Churchill C.I., or Woburn C.I.,

### GREENWOOD RECEPTION CENTRE

24 Mountjoy Avenue  
[416-393-0750](tel:416-393-0750)

*(near Greenwood subway station)*

Students whose home secondary school is: A.Y. Jackson S.S., Agincourt C.I., Albert Campbell C.I., Don Mills C.I., Dr. Norman Bethune C.I., Earl Haig S.S., George S. Henry S.S., Georges Vanier S.S., L'Amoreaux C.I., Lester B. Pearson C.I., Newtonbrook S.S., Sir John A. Macdonald C.I., Stephen Leacock C.I., Victoria Park S.S., or York Mills C.I., should go to the:

### GEORGES VANIER RECEPTION CENTRE

3000 Don Mills Road East  
[416-395-9440](tel:416-395-9440)

*(Don Mills Road East south of Finch)*

Visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), click on “programs” and see “Newcomer programs section”





## Getting Started (cont.)

### The Toronto Foundation for Student Success

The TDSB has its own charitable organization called the Toronto Foundation for Student Success.

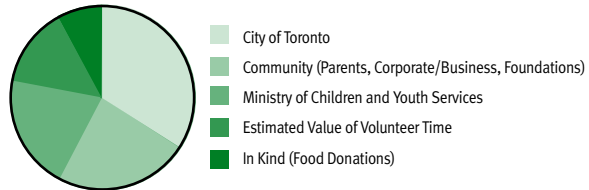
#### *Funding what falls through the cracks so our children do not*

The mission of the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) is to assist the students of the TDSB to benefit physically, emotionally, and intellectually from each school day. The TFSS exists to address the many needs of our students—which are not covered through education funding—and they are dedicated to removing the non-academic obstacles to learning.

Students under extreme stress cannot learn and the TFSS' goal is to help alleviate stress factors experienced by students—such as hunger, poverty, and violence—which impede academic success. The Foundation works to achieve this through nutrition programs, providing support to Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, and the development of pilot programs, thereby contributing to an environment for learning in which students can be successful.

#### *1 in 3 children in Toronto lives in poverty and goes to school hungry*

The TFSS serves 77,000 students in 460 nutrition programs—that's over 8 million meals and snacks in a school year! The funding for these essential programs is from a variety of sources as shown at the top of the next column:



By working together with the community, the TFSS continues to seek out non-traditional funding sources to help students reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become responsible citizens.

#### How can you help?

In addition to individual donations, the TFSS is always in search of corporate partners, from the small entrepreneur to major institutions, who understand our mission and would like to make a dramatic difference in the lives of students.

#### *The Toronto Foundation for Student Success serves 77,000 students in 460 nutrition programs*

As well, there are ongoing volunteer opportunities with the Foundation ranging from working hands-on with our programs, helping to stuff envelopes for a mailing, or providing assistance with any of our many special fundraising events throughout the year.

If you are interested in contributing some of your time or in making a donation, please call us at 416-394-6880 or visit us at [www.studentsuccess.ca](http://www.studentsuccess.ca).

## FEEDING OUR FUTURE—NOURISH THE BODY ... NOURISH THE MIND

Sadly, in Toronto, one in three children live in poverty. Too many students arrive at school hungry. A 2007 survey revealed that 41% of Toronto school children started school each day without breakfast.

In 2007/2008, the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and their partners made hunger a priority by helping to support over 500 breakfast, lunch and snack programs, providing nutritious food to over 90,000 children every school day. While the Feeding Our Future program is making a tremendous impact, there is still much work to do. However, funding currently provides just a small fraction of every dollar required and the program has some significant shortfalls:

- Many hungry students are not receiving assistance.
- Some programs cannot afford fresh fruit and vegetables, crucial components of a healthy diet.
- Other programs are forced to forgo milk to stretch their budget. Further support is needed to reach our goal of no hungry students.

## SPROTT ASSET MANAGEMENT GIFT OF SIGHT AND SOUND PROGRAM

The *Gift of Sight and Sound* program is a collaboration between Sprott Asset Management, Wal-Mart Canada, the Canadian Hearing Society, the Parenting & Family Literacy Programs of the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success. Vision and Hearing screening tests are offered to elementary school students as well as pre-school students.

Elementary school staff told us that many children are struggling because they have difficulty seeing the blackboard or hearing classroom lessons clearly. Children that cannot see or hear clearly are unable to perform to their full potential. The *Gift of Sight and Sound* program not only provides screening but also facilitates medical follow-up. This can include free glasses and/or hearing assistance devices. More than 10,000 children were screened in 2008/2009.

# Student and Parent Learning Support

Parent and Community Involvement Policy Statement  
*The TDSB believes that education is a shared responsibility among parents, the community, students, staff, and the Board. By working together, we all contribute to the improvement of our schools and to the success of our students.*

## School Councils

Each TDSB school is required to have a school council made up of the principal, parents, teachers, support staff, students (secondary schools), and community members. The purpose of the council is to actively engage parents to improve student success. It also provides a regular opportunity for its members to discuss how to make the school a better place for learning for its students. The principal brings important information about the school to the school council. The school council, in turn, advises the principal on matters related to the learning goals of the school, the school's policies and procedures, students' needs, activities and resources for students and parents, and ways of involving parents in the life of the school. The school council is required to hold at least four general meetings each school year that are open to all parents in the school, and a membership election in September. The elected chair of the council is a parent of a child in the school. For more information about your school council, please call your school or the chair of your school council. For information on school councils in general visit the TDSB web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), select "Parents" and then "School Councils."

## Parent Concern Protocol

The TDSB Parent Concern Protocol is a tool for parents to address school and classroom concerns. These guidelines, based on practices currently used by the TDSB, have been formalized to ensure consistency, efficiency, and transparency across the school system. It is not intended to replace existing problem-solving processes set out in specific legislation or Board policies, but is to be used when not covered by existing guidelines. The Protocol confirms the responsibility of the principal superintendent of education and the trustee in providing advice, direction, or decision making on parents' concerns. It also outlines clear action steps for parents. When parents direct their concerns to the director of education or to central office supervisory officers, they will be assessed for appropriate action or redirection.

## Trustees

Trustees are your elected representatives to the Board. For the telephone number of the trustee in your area, call [416-393-8809](tel:416-393-8809), [416-397-3061](tel:416-397-3061), or [416-397-3063](tel:416-397-3063), or visit the TDSB web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), select the "About Us" button and on the right of the screen click on "Wards and Trustees."



## Child Care

The TDSB works in partnership with more than 300 childcare centres housed in its schools to support children, parents, families, and communities. Child Care programs are licensed, regulated, legal corporations operating under the Provincial Day Nurseries Act, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and further regulated by Children’s Services, the City of Toronto, and Toronto Public Health. Most childcare centres have an agreement with the City of Toronto to accept families who qualify for a fee subsidy.

To locate a program in your area, use our on-line childcare finder at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), select “Find Your School” then select the “Child Care Finder” button. Select the age of the child and click on the area of the city in which you live to find schools providing child care. For further information, please call 416-394-2072 or 416-394-7369.

## Keeping Informed

Throughout the year, you may receive a newsletter that provides key information about your school, special events, and more. As well, the principal, superintendent, trustee, and/or director of education may periodically send letters home to parents about issues of importance to your child’s education, your school, and community.

Comprehensive information about services at the TDSB is easily accessible on-line on our web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca).

[www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca):  
Your One-Stop Source for  
TDSB Information

Information about the TDSB’s schools, programs, and services is easily accessible on our web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca). Unique features of the web site include school profiles that outline program offerings, province-wide reading, writing, and mathematics test results, and student demographics at each TDSB school; an advanced map interface to our school boundaries; a home page that features late breaking news as it happens; a specific page for Parents that highlights key topics, an improved search engine to help you find what you’re looking for; and much more.



## Student and Parent Learning Support (cont.)

### Alternative Schools

TDSB alternative schools offer students and parents an alternative to mainstream schooling. Each alternative school, whether elementary or secondary, has a distinct identity and approach to curriculum delivery along with a strong volunteer commitment from parents and other community members. Each school varies in enrollment, age groups, and grade levels.

For more information on admissions and programs at the schools, visit the TDSB web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), in the menu click on “Alternative Schools.”

### Student Agendas/Planners

TDSB schools use agendas/planners to help students keep track of their assignments, plan ahead, and to inform parents of daily and weekly work progress. The planners also include information customized for the student’s school as well as Board-wide information such as the school year calendar, code of on-line conduct, and more.

Students are strongly encouraged to purchase a planner. It may be provided as part of the annual school activity fee. For more information, contact your child’s school.



### Volunteering at Your Child’s School

As communities make a difference in people’s lives, so can you at your child’s school by volunteering your time and expertise. Parents are welcomed in schools and the classroom to supplement teacher support of student needs. Your child’s school may have a variety of classroom positions available, including helping a child in one-on-one reading, in a computer lab, in art class, in the library reading to students or shelving books, or helping outside the classroom by chaperoning dances, assisting with the yearbook project, or accompanying classes on field trips. Your involvement is welcome! To help guard our students’ safety, volunteers are asked to undergo a confidential police reference check.

For information on how you can volunteer, please contact your local school principal.

### Extracurricular Activities

School is more than academic subjects. TDSB schools have a wide variety of extracurricular activities run by teachers who volunteer their time to the students, either during lunch hour or before and after school. Participating in clubs and on teams exposes students to different and new activities, brings them together with peers who hold similar interests, rounds out their education, and makes their school experience more vital.

Encourage your children to investigate the many extracurricular activities available at their school. Many of the clubs are cost-free. Others may require fees for equipment. Check with your school for details.

## PARTNERSHIPS

## PARTNERSHIPS

The TDSB welcomes partnerships with private individuals, groups, organizations, and companies that enhance students' education and learning resources.

Business Development is the first point of contact for those wanting to enter into entrepreneurial partnerships, to make donations or sponsorships, or to seek business opportunities with the Board. As well, the department acts as a resource for parent councils, schools, staff, and trustees and supports fundraising activities and sponsorships both inside and outside the Board. The department also answers questions about the Board's fundraising and advertising policies and procedures through our Parent Fundraising Hotline as well as the distribution of materials from outside of the Board.

Parent Fundraising Hotline: 416-397-3510

Business Development : 416-397-3509

E-mail: [businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca)

Partnership Development facilitates partnerships that provide expanded opportunities for student success. Educational partnerships are ongoing, mutually beneficial relationships between schools and community organizations, business, labour, and institutions. Partnership programs increase learning resources through tutors, mentors, guest speakers, workshops, field trips, presentations, and scholarships. Educational partnership activities that focus on enhancements to curriculum build stronger, caring school communities. Partnership stories can be viewed on the TDSB's public web site.

Take your educational partnership idea and suggestions to your school council.

For more information, contact:

Educational Partnerships: 416-397-3340

E-mail: [partners@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:partners@tdsb.on.ca)



## Student and Parent Learning Support

### Alternative Programs

Alternative programs reach out primarily to students 12 to 16 years of age who are struggling both academically and in finding a positive sense of direction for the future. Their past performance shows they are capable of academic success, however, their lack of success may be linked to personal, family, or social problems or other events in their lives.

Alternative programs are positive transition programs rather than an alternative path to attaining high school graduation. Each program aims to return students to the regular home school setting with a focused and positive sense of direction and a set of skills to help them be successful, or to pursue other educational or career opportunities. They do not offer a full academic program for students but focus on core subject areas, literacy and numeracy, completion or attainment of subject-specific credits, and life skills, personal, and social skills development.

There are alternative programs for elementary and secondary students on long-term suspensions or limited expulsions. These programs can help a student return to a regular school setting by addressing conflict resolution, anger management, and feelings of hostility. These programs help students and schools by providing a proactive and preventative support for some students. The TDSB is also a partner in two of the provincially funded demonstration programs for fully expelled students. Known as the Strict Discipline School Programs for Expelled Students, these programs help students meet the criteria for a successful return to the school system.

Alternative Programs also provide opportunities for students who have been excused from regular daily school attendance through the SALEP process (Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils). These programs provide flexible scheduling and attendance options on an individualized basis.

### Remedial Support

The TDSB has remedial help available for students at different stages of their education. At the elementary level, remedial programs, peer tutors, and homework clubs are offered. Talk to your child's teacher and principal for more information.

The After-School Literacy and Numeracy program offered by the Continuing Education department supports students in grades 7 to 12. The teachers focus on literacy and numeracy skills and concepts which will help at-risk students succeed in the regular day school classroom. For more information, speak to your school guidance staff.

Secondary Summer School Credit programs offered by the Continuing Education department are for students who earned a final mark between 35 and 49 percent in a course. For more information about remedial summer credit programs, speak to your school guidance staff.

## HOMWORK TIPS

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### HOMWORK TIPS

Homework and parental involvement are key parts to a student's academic success. Staying up-to-date on homework assignments helps students retain knowledge learned in the classroom. Research also shows that students do better when parents participate in their child's education.

The TDSB provides resources and assistance in various forms to both students and parents to help them succeed.

#### On-Line Lessons

A number of learning activities for English and mathematics are available for elementary students, grades 1 to 8. These on-line activities offer three days of lessons and are available as PDF files. You can download these lessons at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca). Select the "Parents" button, then "Homework Tips."

#### Extra Help

Many TDSB schools have remedial programs, peer tutors, or homework clubs. Talk to your

child's teacher and principal. Many secondary schools offer extra help in skills labs and at lunchtime or after school.

#### Study Tips

- Praise and encourage your children in their work. Talk to your children about what they are learning in school.
- Read together with younger children.
- Let your children help you in writing recipes, letters, shopping lists, and reading newspapers.
- Encourage your children to ask the teacher for help if they find the work difficult or confusing.
- Set a consistent time when homework will be done every night. Check that homework is completed. Provide a quiet place away from distractions such as television, telephone, and computer.
- Have your children practise mathematics, reading, and writing skills daily.
- Keep in touch with the teachers and call when you have questions or concerns.

## Library and Learning Resources

TDSB school libraries provide a specialized, curriculum-related program of information literacy instruction and a collection of print and electronic educational resources. A wide variety of books, magazines, and media are carefully selected to support student learning, research, technological skills, communication, and pleasure reading. Students also have access to

on-line encyclopaedias, periodical databases, electronic books (e-books), spoken stories, and quality web links anytime at home and school through a comprehensive school library web site: for elementary go to;

[www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/Links.asp?schoolNo=10](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/Links.asp?schoolNo=10) and for secondary go to;

[www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/Links.asp?schoolNo=9](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/Links.asp?schoolNo=9).

Your school's teacher-librarian can supply home passwords for on-line resources and explain more about your child's school library program.



# Special Education

## Special Education

The TDSB, through its Special Education department, is committed to active and meaningful collaboration with students, parents/guardians, schools, and agencies to ensure that all students' special learning needs are met in the most inclusionary environment possible, in the most equitably resourced programs possible.

The TDSB offers a wide-ranging level of special education support and services. The needs of most school-aged children and youth can be effectively met within their neighbourhoods and through regular attendance in local schools. Some students do require small, specialized settings called Intensive Support Programs, which offer programs specific to the students' needs. As well, there are conditions where a child or youth's social, emotional, behavioural, and/or medical needs require the individual to be placed in a treatment facility. These programs are under the umbrella of Section Programs.

The TDSB has established a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) in accordance with the Education Act. SEAC makes recommendations to the Board concerning any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of Special Education programs and services. The TDSB and SEAC work together to protect the rights of students with special learning needs. The members of SEAC represent students with exceptionalities and have the opportunity to participate in the annual reviews of the Board's Special Education Plan and the Board's annual budget process as it relates to special education.

For more information regarding specific Special Education programs, please visit our web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), click on "Programs," scroll down the menu and click on "Special Education." Or, contact your local school or the Special Education department in your area:

Marilyn Lowe, Supervising Principal	South East 416-396-4984
Catherine Huycke, Supervising Principal	North East 416-396-9003
Stephanie Williams, Supervising Principal	South West 416-394-3763
Jane Cooper-Eade, Supervising Principal	North West 416-394-7406
Leslie Milne, Supervising Principal Section 23 Programs	416-395-2291

# Support Services

Support Services include Psychology, Social Work & Attendance, Speech/Language Pathology, and Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy. These services provide ongoing support to “at-risk” students in the classroom with the goal of improving these students’ educational outcomes. Specifically they:

## Support students’ classroom programs by:

- assisting teachers in understanding the special needs of students
- supporting students in accessing the curriculum
- linking programming suggestions and/or recommendations to curriculum expectations
- providing individual and group counselling

## Support Board programs by:

- providing Crisis Response counselling to schools
- consulting to a wide variety of Special Education programs
- providing direct service to exceptional students and their families
- providing information for the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) process
- acting as liaison to community-based services and agencies
- providing professional development for TDSB staff



## Support Services (cont.)

For more information regarding Support Services, please visit our web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca), click on “Programs,” scroll down the menu and click on “Special Education” and/or contact your local school or the appropriate person below for your specific area or location:

### PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES:

Paul Legzdins, Chief, South East 416-396-4997

Dr. Ruth Baumal, Chief, North East 416-396-8459

Dr. Carolyn Lennox, Chief, South West 416-394-3904

Dr. Paul O’Connell, Chief, North West 416-394-7402

### SOCIAL WORK & ATTENDANCE SERVICES:

Mark Dooner, Chief, South East 416-396-7935

Frank Orlando, Chief, North East 416-396-3400

Harvey Nageberg, Chief, South West 416-394-3967

Marcia Powers-Dunlop, Chief, North West 416-394-3388

### SPEECH/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES:

David Haffner, Chief, East 416-396-7983

Sharon McWhirter, Chief, West 416-394-7400

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY/PHYSICAL THERAPY

Anne Ricci, Chief 416-394-7351

# Checkpoints

## Student Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting

The primary purpose of student assessment and evaluation is to improve learning for all students. The process of assessment identifies a student's areas of strength, and informs both the student and parents where additional support and encouragement are required. It is an important part of the regular communication between schools and families through the academic year. Evaluation of student progress occurs throughout the year, usually at the end of a unit of study. Formal reporting of student achievement occurs at certain times in the year through the use of the Ontario provincial report card.

### Report Cards

#### Kindergarten

Reporting on the progress of kindergarten children occurs in November or December, in March, and in June. Information is based on the teacher's observation of each child's personal and social development in terms of positive attitude, independence and responsibility, as well as problem solving, task completion, and decision-making ability. The kindergarten report cards also highlight the child's development in language, mathematics, science and technology, health and physical activity, and the arts based on the kindergarten program expectations.

#### Grades 1 to 8

Each child will receive a report card three times per year, usually in early December, late March, and late June. Grades or marks are based on a student's demonstration of learning in relation to expectations outlined in the Ontario curriculum. A separate section for reporting on the student's overall demonstration of learning skills is also included. The learning skills are assessed across all subject areas, and in other behaviour at school, such as initiative, homework completion, and conflict resolution. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child's teacher for complete learning skills and achievement details.

#### Secondary

Usually non-semestered secondary schools report to parents three times per year and semestered schools report four times

per year. Many secondary schools also send home interim report cards within the first eight to ten weeks of the year and/or semester. For more information, parents are encouraged to talk to their child's principal or guidance counsellor.

### Parent/Teacher Conference

The parent-teacher conference is the most important time for parents to discuss their child's progress in school. In elementary schools, days are set aside during the school year specifically for parent-teacher conferences at a time immediately following the distribution of report cards. In secondary schools, the parent-teacher conferences occur either after the interim report or after the midsemester report. Parents can also ask for an interview at any time during the school year by calling their child's school directly.

### EQAO

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments are provincially mandated for students in grades 3, 6, 9, and 10 and are designed to get a province-wide look at how students are performing in reading, writing, and mathematics. Parents receive a report of their child's results following the assessment. This information helps parents and educators identify where students can benefit from extra support and encouragement.

EQAO assessments for the 2008–2009 school year will take place on the following dates:

- Grade 9 Assessments of Mathematics (first-semester students): January 7 to 22, 2010
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test: April 8, 2010
- Primary Division (Grade 3) and Junior Division (Grade 6) Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics: May 31 to June 11, 2010
- Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics (second-semester and full-year students): June 3 to 18, 2010

For more information, including frequently asked questions, please call EQAO at 1-888-327-7377, visit their web site at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com), or call Organizational Development/ Research and Information Services at 416-394-7404.

# Moving Up

## Preparing to Move Up

One of the significant milestones in a child's life is the move from elementary to secondary school. Students may feel both excited and nervous about what, for them, is a large step. As they look forward to the increased freedom and choices that secondary school presents, they may worry about making friends, fitting in, increased homework, time management, and getting lost in a new school. Parents, students, and school staff can work together to help make the move less stressful and give students a successful start in secondary school.

### What Parents Can Do

Parental involvement is critical to a student's successful transition from elementary to secondary school.

- Keep the lines of communication open. Listen for what excites or worries your children about the move to the secondary level. Give them the time to talk about what excites them and what they are learning from it. When your child appears worried, for instance about making new friends, ask the child to recount a similar situation in the past and how he or she dealt with it. Could the child use the same skills in this new situation? Children need to see that they already have many of the skills needed to handle most of their concerns.
- Act as a source of information for your children. Attend parent information evenings at the elementary school, open houses and information evenings at the secondary school, or meet with the elementary guidance counsellor and ask questions important to your child and yourself.
- Inform yourselves about the secondary school they will be attending. Help your child become familiar with secondary school life by attending music nights or school performances at the secondary school.

An excellent resource for students and parents to access school information is the TDSB web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca). Click on "Find Your School."

### What Students Can Do

Students generally begin exploring the secondary school program in grade 8, however, planning for the transition to secondary school sooner may help them be better prepared.

- Beginning in grade 7, students have an opportunity to set academic, social, and career-related goals for the year.
- Students who are concerned about increased workload can ease their transition into secondary school by speaking to their guidance counsellors or teachers about study skills programs. Students can also access study skills and homework help on various web sites such as the Ontario School Counsellors' Association at [www.osca.ca](http://www.osca.ca) or the TVO web site at [www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org) and click on "Ask A Teacher!"
- For students wishing to attend secondary schools with specialized programs such as the arts, math, science, or computers, it is recommended that they research the entry requirements into these programs before grade 8, and work toward them. Students are encouraged to speak with guidance counsellors and attend open houses with their parents for more information.
- Students should reflect on or have a discussion about other significant transitions (grade to grade or school to school) and think about the skills they used to make the change as smooth as possible.

## Schools to Future See the Future Now!

In the Toronto District School Board, it is our shared belief that student success is dependent on a safe, caring, inclusive learning environment where every student feels valued. In addition to academic improvement, the TDSB continues to focus on the social, physical and emotional development of our students. Much of this starts with teaching our students about the value of character - respecting themselves and each other, making positive contributions to their school and community, thinking critically and creatively. By supporting the heart and art of teaching and learning in our classrooms, hallways, and our communities, we are nurturing the joy of learning.

As we develop our leaders of tomorrow, we are also developing our leaders of today. A variety of experiences that involve career awareness, character development, experiential learning, and involvement with colleagues, universities, and workplaces, allow our students to see their future now. A future that may include school, work, college, university, and/or apprenticeship, but more importantly a future of continuous learning, positive contributions to society, and personal and professional fulfilment.

### Remember:

- All pathways are equally important - college, university, apprenticeship and workplace.
- Understand that each individual has a unique learning style.
- Encourage individuals to identify and cultivate their strengths and interests.
- Effort and developing effective learning habits are essential in all pathways.
- Resources are available to assist in discovering more about pathways.
- Community involvement and Cooperative Education programs are great ways to explore interests and gain work experience.



## Moving Up (cont.)

### Earning Your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

#### Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

Ontario's Secondary School program is based on a credit system. To obtain a secondary school diploma (OSSD), students must earn a total of 30 credits (one credit is earned for each 110-hour course successfully completed),

complete the literacy requirement, and complete 40 hours of community involvement.

Eighteen of the credits must come from a list of compulsory subjects that every student must take. The remaining 12 credits are optional, earned in courses that the student may choose for him or herself from those available at the school.

In grade 9, most students will take eight courses during the school year.

#### ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA (OSSD) Requirements

##### 18 Compulsory Credits

- Σ• 4 credits in English\*
- Σ• 3 credits in mathematics
- Σ• 2 credits in science
- Σ• 1 credit in Canadian history
- Σ• 1 credit in Canadian geography
- Σ• 1 credit in the arts
- Σ• 1 credit in health and physical education
- Σ• 1 credit in French as a second language
- Σ• 0.5 credit in career studies
- Σ• 0.5 credit in civics

##### PLUS

- Σ• 1 additional credit in English, or French as a second language, or a Native language, or a classical or an international language, or social sciences and the humanities, or Canadian and world studies, or guidance and career education, or cooperative education\*\*
- Σ• 1 additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies, or cooperative education\*\*
- Σ• 1 additional credit in science, or technological education, or cooperative education\*\*

#### In addition to the compulsory credits, students must complete

- Σ12 optional credits\*\*\*
- Σ40 hours of community involvement activities
- ΣThe provincial literacy requirement

\*A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

\*\*A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education can count as compulsory credits.

\*\*\*May include up to four credits achieved through approved Dual Credit courses.

## Apprenticeship and OYAP

Students who participate in Cooperative Education in an apprenticeable trade are able to participate in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) while they are still in secondary school. This program allows them to start working on post-secondary apprenticeship qualifications right away.

OYAP starts in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program. Students in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) have opportunities to become registered apprentices and work toward becoming certified journeypersons in a skilled trade while completing their secondary school diplomas.

### Admission Requirements

To be eligible for OYAP, a student must:

- be at least 16 years of age and in either Grade 11 or Grade 12
- have successfully completed at least 16 credits
- be registered as a full-time student

## Cooperative Education

Your child has the opportunity to combine academic study with practical experience in business and industry. Through cooperative education placements, students develop the work habits, attitudes, and job skills necessary for a successful transition from school to the workplace or post-secondary education. Students also earn credits toward an OSSD by successfully demonstrating course expectations in the workplace. Cooperative education credits can be tied to

- be working toward the completion of all OSSD requirements
- be interested in a specific skilled profession as a future career pathway

Contact the cooperative education teacher, guidance counselor, technological studies teacher, or OYAP representative at your local school for more information. Parents with questions, please call [416-394-7182](tel:416-394-7182).

### BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS

The TDSB currently has approximately 800 scholarships available to its students. Many of these scholarships are awarded to graduating students based upon meeting established criteria. Parents and students interested in scholarship criteria and other details should call their local school.

For information on establishing new scholarships, please contact Scholarships and Trust at [416-395-8242](tel:416-395-8242) or [416-395-8006](tel:416-395-8006).

any related secondary school course that students are studying or that they have successfully completed. Now up to two cooperative education credits can count toward the compulsory credits for an OSSD. Students can choose from a wide variety of placements that will help them make decisions about future educational and career paths. Students are regularly monitored and assessed in the workplace by a co-op teacher. For more information, talk to your school's cooperative education teacher or guidance counsellor.



## Moving Up (cont.)

### Student Leadership

School is more than core curriculum and classroom instruction—it is an occasion for students to grow socially, get involved, and develop leadership skills. They should be encouraged to investigate opportunities and participate in their school’s many associations, whether it be student politics, promoting equity, stopping violence, or cleaning the environment.

TDSB students contribute their voices to the education system through Student Councils, Area Student Councils, the TDSB Student SuperCouncil, and on the Board itself through student trustees. More information on our student leaders can be found on the web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca). Select “Students,” then click on the Student SuperCouncil logo. Or, you can e-mail [supercouncil@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:supercouncil@tdsb.on.ca).



### Driver Education

The Toronto District School Board’s competitively priced Driver Education program is certified by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario. Graduates of the program meet the requirements for insurance discounts and can take the G1 road test after eight months instead of one year.

Our curriculum is taught by experienced, qualified instructors. TDSB Driver Education classes are offered to students and to the general public. Participants must be at least 16 years of age and have a G1 licence in order to enrol in the TDSB program.

Courses operate after school, in the evenings, and on Saturdays throughout the year, at convenient sites across the city. As well, intensive one-week classes are offered during March Break and the summer.

For more information about dates and locations of courses, please visit our web site at [www.drived.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.drived.tdsb.on.ca) or call our information line at 416-397-3309.



# Learning For Life

## Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Department provides elementary, secondary and adult programming to more than 160,000 learners each year.

Programs include the following:

**Literacy and Numeracy Program** is for elementary students who need extra help to improve their literacy and numeracy skills so that they can be more successful in school. [www.InTheZone.ca](http://www.InTheZone.ca)

**International Languages Elementary - African Heritage Programs** offer students, JK to Grade 8, the opportunity to learn additional languages (nearly 50 languages are presently offered) and to gain an understanding of, and appreciation for traditions, cultures and customs. [www.ileprograms.ca](http://www.ileprograms.ca)

**English as a Second Language Program for Adults** helps newcomers to Canada improve and strengthen their English language skills so that they may participate

more fully in Canadian society and economy.

[www.ESLToronto.ca](http://www.ESLToronto.ca)

**Secondary Credit Programs** (Night School and Summer School) provides adolescent and adult students with an opportunity to earn credits after school and during the summer. [www.CreditPrograms.ca](http://www.CreditPrograms.ca)

**Community Programs** - General Interest and Seniors Daytime classes are offered to adults for a fee and generally run in our schools as day or evening classes. [www.Learn-4Life.ca](http://www.Learn-4Life.ca)

Explore opportunities open to all adults 18 years of age and older. For more information about our programs please visit our web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca/coned](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/coned), or call 416-338-4000.

## Virtual School

The TDSB Virtual School provides students with quality education in a flexible and collaborative environment, enhancing their ability to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are critical for success in an information-based society. The TDSB Virtual School offers students on-line access to:

- credit courses
- tutorials
- curriculum support materials
- certification programs
- an on-line library
- a Virtual Guidance Centre
- a Virtual Career Centre

Students enrolled in on-line credit courses work on-line with a teacher. Chat groups, threaded discussions, and conferencing are also available to support learning. Registration instructions and semester dates are available at [www.tdsbvirtuelschool.com/](http://www.tdsbvirtuelschool.com/).

## Learning For Life (cont.)

### Adult Day Schools

TDSB adult day schools offer credit courses for adults who want to complete their high school diploma, prepare for post-secondary education, or gain job-related training. Schools feature supportive staff and flexible services and programs. Courses are offered at the following sites:

- Burnhamthorpe Adult Learning Centre, 500 The East Mall,  
416-394-7130
- City Adult Learning Centre (CALC), 1 Danforth Avenue,  
416-393-9759
- Emery Adult Learning Centre, 3395 Weston Road,  
416-395-3225
- Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies (Adults),  
939 Progress Avenue,  
416-396-6921
- Yorkdale Adult Learning Centre, 38 Orfus Road,  
416-395-4417

For more information about adult day schools go to [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) and click on the “Schools” link.

### Community Use of School Facilities—Permits

The TDSB makes many of its facilities and fields available for groups and organizations outside of the school day and encourages community use of its schools, within prescribed policies and guidelines.

Permits are required for such use and fees will be charged according to an established schedule. Individuals and groups may apply for permits on a one-time or multi-use basis, depending upon the availability of the facility or field and availability of caretaking staff and/or other Board approved personnel.

For further information, please visit the TDSB public web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca/permits](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/permits), or contact the Permits Unit at 416-395-7666.

