



## **Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin**

**Chair • Trustee, Ward 11 • Don Valley West**

Toronto District School Board

416-395-8787 • [Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca)

Dear friends,

Just a friendly reminder -

***Ward 11 Coffee Morning***  
***February 28, 9:30 - 11:00 am***  
***Longo's on Laird, upstairs in the kitchen.***

Please join us for an informal gathering with parents and constituents in a round table-style discussion of information sharing, best practices and interesting conversation related to education in our ward. We often have superintendents who drop by, so these are fun and engaging events.

Please see the [flyer](#) for information, and please [register](#) to let us know you are coming.


### **WARD 11 NEWS**

#### ***Preliminary Report on the Review of the Legacy and Technical and Commercial Boundaries***

I want to draw the Ward 11 community's attention to a preliminary report coming to our Planning and Priorities Committee this week. The report contains preliminary recommendations from the review of the legacy commercial and technical programs at 6 Toronto high schools, including Northern Secondary School. The recommendations include dissolution of these legacy boundaries, which historically enabled some addresses to attend Northern based on a


Trustee Chernos Lin invites you to a

Don Valley West  
COMMUNITY COFFEE



Join us for a morning of casual conversation about education with Ward 11 superintendents

**RSVP**  
<http://tinyurl.com/4hv4ncy>



Wednesday, February 28th, 2024  
9:30 am - 11:00 am  
Leaside Longo's Loft – Upstairs Kitchen  
(93 Laird Drive, in the Leaside Village Plaza)

designation and therefore fewer choices. To read the preliminary report, please click [here](#).

### ***More Ward Forums and Coffee Mornings***

Ward Forums are evening events, typically structured around a specific topic, and in order to make it as easy as possible for all to attend, these will be virtual for the remainder of this school year. Below is the meetings line up for the rest of the 2023/2024 school year:

Ward Forums:

- April 15 (NEW tentative date; focus: The Right to Read and Literacy)
- May 2 (tentative date; focus: Kindness Matters! How Ward 11 Schools are Building Kindness and Empathy)

Coffee Mornings:

- April 17 (virtual)
- May 29 (in person)

Information and registration for these events will be available in future newsletters closer to event dates and will also be posted in similar timelines on my Ward 11 web page at [www.tdsb.on.ca/ward11](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward11).

Below you will find more information on recent TDSB initiatives, news, and events.

Hope to see many of you Wednesday morning.

~ Rachel

*Rachel Chernos Lin, TDSB Trustee, Ward 11, Don Valley West*

*[Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca)*

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## Worth Repeating

### TDSB Policy & Board of Trustees

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- [Historic Capital Revitalization Strategy Approved](#)
- [Review of Legacy Technical and Commercial Boundaries Long-Term Accommodation Strategy](#)
- [2023 Director's Annual Report Released](#)
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### TDSB Programming

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### Health & Wellness

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- [Reducing the Spread of Respiratory Illness](#)
- [Ventilation in Schools](#)

- [Coping During War & Conflict: Video Series and Culturally Responsive Resources](#)
- [Combatting Hate](#)

#### Other news

- [Before- and After-School Program \(BASP\) Interest Survey](#)
- [Summer CampTO Registrations started February 7](#)

#### Heritage Months

- [February is Chinese Heritage Month - 2024 Lunar New Year](#)
- [February is African Heritage \(Black History\) Month](#)
- [February is Somali Heritage Month](#)

## TDSB Budget: Public Engagement Opportunities

### Rewatch Budget Town Halls

You can watch the Town Halls that were recently held here - [Tuesday, February 20](#), and [Wednesday, February 21](#).

### Public Delegations

TDSB welcomes members of the public to bring forward issues and concerns they have through a delegation, which is addressing a committee of the Board of Trustees (by speaking or submitting a written statement). Register to address the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on March 26, 2024.

[Learn more and register here](#)

*Please note: the deadline for delegations to be considered is 12 p.m. on Monday, March 25.*

### Budget Survey

Watch for the [Budget Survey](#) coming this week!

**TDSB Budget: Public Engagement Opportunities**

**Virtual Budget Town Halls**  
Public consultations are an important part of the budget process, and we want to hear from you!

Please join us for a Virtual Budget Town Hall to share your ideas and feedback:

- Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7 p.m.  
<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/99927848958>
- Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.  
<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92775215007>

**Public Delegations**  
We welcome members of the public to bring forward issues and concerns they have through a delegation, which is addressing a committee of the Board of Trustees (by speaking or submitting a written statement). Register to address the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on **March 26, 2024**. Learn more and register at [www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Delegations](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Delegations).

**Online Budget Survey**  
An online budget survey will be available shortly at [www.tdsb.on.ca/budget](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/budget).

## Updated Budget Schedule

- Schedule of Meetings
  - Feb 14<sup>th</sup> - FBEC Meeting
    - Potential Areas of Focus for the Balance 24-25 Budget
  - Feb 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - 2 Webinars with stakeholders (one noon and one in evening)
    - Student Feedback
    - Survey to collect feedback
  - March 4<sup>th</sup> – FBEC Meeting
    - School Based Staffing
    - Feedback on Information Sessions (Webinars in Feb)
    - Financial Facts
  - March 19<sup>th</sup> – FBEC Meeting
    - Detailed Options to Balance presented to FBEC

## Updated Budget Schedule – continued

- March 26<sup>th</sup> - FBEC
  - Delegations of Budget
- March 27<sup>th</sup> - FBEC
  - Recommendation to Board on Operating Budget 24-25
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Board
  - Approval of 2024-25 Budget
- April
  - Projected Release of GSN
- May
  - Capital Budget Draft
- June
  - Approval of Capital Budget



# TDSB Operating Budget: At a Glance



Approximately  
**238,000**  
STUDENTS

Approximately  
**24,000**  
EMPLOYEES



**582**  
SCHOOLS

**OPERATING  
BUDGET**  
**\$3.7 Billion\***



**2024-25**  
**PROJECTED**  
**DEFICIT**  
**\$34.8 million**

Trustees and staff are working together to identify options to balance the budget.

*\*Includes amortization costs.*

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Trustees and staff work together to approve a balanced budget plan to submit to the Ministry of Education. The TDSB is committed to the effective use of resources to ensure that every dollar spent has a positive impact on student achievement and well-being. Our focus is to ensure that every student has what they need to be successful, confident, and engaged learners. Below is a high-level breakdown of the TDSB's operating budget.



Instruction 74.5%

School Operations and Building Renewal 21%  
Administration 2.5%  
Transportation 2%

Learn more at [www.tdsb.on.ca/budget](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/budget)





## TDSB Excellence Awards 2024 Nominations open on February 27

Every year, the [TDSB Excellence Awards](#) help shine a light on the stories of extraordinary staff commitment, and we are delighted to announce that nominations for the Excellence Awards 2024 will open on February 27, 2024.

The Excellence Awards align with our shared system priorities and help highlight TDSB staff's efforts to foster joy, engagement and belonging in our schools, workplaces and communities as a foundation for academic achievement, student success, and service excellence. We want to know about the TDSB colleagues you know who are inspiring students, innovating the curriculum, championing digital transformation, creating inclusive schools and workplaces, and working behind the scenes to support operational excellence.

We welcome nominations from anyone – staff, students, parents/caregivers or community members – so we ask Trustees to encourage nomination submissions through the [Excellence Awards website](#) during the nomination period between February 27 and April 5, 2024.

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## OPSBA Awards

Do you know an amazing trustee, teacher, education worker, school administrator, student or community member who deserves to be recognized for making a difference in their local school or community?



Nominations are now open for the 2024 OPSBA Awards!

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

[More information is available on the OPSBA website](#)

[Click for the Nomination Form](#)

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## Aquatic Instructors Needed

In order to operate swim programs in our schools with pools, we need two on-site aquatic instructors. Sadly, the TDSB has had a shortage of aquatic instructors since schools reopened from COVID. If you know of any aquatic instructors, please, have them complete the application!

[Click here for the posting where applicants can apply directly.](#)

Thanks you and feel free to share!

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## Measles

During the pandemic, some people may have missed their measles vaccinations and should make sure they are up-to-date with their vaccines.



Toronto Public Health (TPH) is investigating one lab confirmed case of measles. The measles vaccine is available at your doctor's office or at a [TPH community clinic](#) for school-aged children. Due to travel, measles still occurs in Canada. Anyone born before '96 who hasn't had measles should check their immune status—you might think you're immune, but not be. Two doses were introduced then. Let's eradicate measles again!

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## e-Learning Day-School kicks off second semester

Semester Two is underway in e-Learning Day School. Registration closed on Thursday, February 22, 2024, and currently, all 39 sections of classes are full with waitlists for each section. The incredible work of the Guidance Counsellors, Student Support staff, and Administrators supported a smooth registration process for eLDS Semester 2 classes and approvals for course selections. We look forward to supporting students in the e-Learning

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[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



The achievement results from Semester One demonstrate the hard work and efforts of students and teachers. Semester one results include a fantastic 95% success rate, with an average final mark of 80% for eLDS students.

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## Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Department Offerings

The TDSB is dedicated to working with internal and external partners to establish equitable learning spaces where all students thrive. In light of this ongoing commitment, the Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Department offers a vast array of professional learning opportunities, student programming, and community workshops for the 2023-2024 school year.

The [menu of offerings](#) is shared bi-weekly (click for current options - for staff but also many or students).

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## Special Education and Inclusion Parent / Caregiver / Guardian sessions - March 5 & 6

The graphic is a promotional flyer for a webinar. At the top, it features the TDSB logo and the text 'Special Education and Inclusion presents'. Below this, the title 'Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Session #2' is displayed in a bold, green font, followed by the date and time: 'Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.'. A small note indicates that requests for language interpreters should be made by February 20th. A list of topics to be discussed includes 'Transitions for Students with an IEP', 'Elementary to Secondary Transitions', 'Post Secondary Transitions', 'School/Home Partnerships', and 'Resources'. A prominent yellow box contains the text 'Webinar Link' and 'Please click the link to join', with a note that the button is not clickable and provides a URL to copy and paste into a browser. At the bottom, there is a contact email for special education and the TDSB logo.

**tdsb** | Special Education and Inclusion  
*presents*  
**Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Session #2**  
Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

If you require a language interpreter, please send in your request by February 20th to [SpecialEd@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:SpecialEd@tdsb.on.ca).

Please join us to learn more about:

- Transitions for Students with an IEP
- Elementary to Secondary Transitions
- Post Secondary Transitions
- School/Home Partnerships
- Resources

**Webinar Link**  
Please click the link to join  
If the above button is not clickable, try copying and pasting the following link into the address bar of your web browser  
<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/96038536031>

For any concerns around personal accommodation, please contact [SpecialEd@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:SpecialEd@tdsb.on.ca)  
**tdsb**.on.ca

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to offer their second engagement session for parents/guardians/caregivers this year.

Please see the below for details:

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Session #2

- Morning Session - Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
[Webinar Link](#)
- Evening Session - Wednesday, March 6th, 2024 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
[Webinar Link](#)

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# Breaking Down Barriers To Mental Health in Black Communities with Trey Anthony - Community, Caregivers, Staff and Students (Gr. 7-12) - March 7 from 6-7:30pm

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student

Achievement will be hosting a session during Black

Mental Health Week 2024 with award-winning playwright, actor, and wellness expert Trey

Anthony 'Da Kink in My Hair'.

Honouring the theme for this year, 'Growth and Reflection,' parents, caregivers, students (Gr.

7-12) and community members are invited to join Trey as she delves into important topics

such as the stigma surrounding mental health in Black communities.

[Register here](#)

**Breaking Down Barriers to Mental Health in Black Communities**

**With Trey Anthony**

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, TDSB Mental Health & Well-Being, and Teachers Learning and Leading will be hosting a session during Black Mental Health Week 2024 with award-winning playwright, actor and wellness expert Trey Anthony 'Da Kink in My Hair'.

Honouring the theme for this year, 'Growth and Reflection,' we invite parents, caregivers, students (Gr. 7-12) and community members to join Trey as she delves into important topics such as the stigma surrounding mental health in Black communities. Drawing from her own personal journey, Trey will shed light on her experience with functional depression and mental health. She will also discuss the importance of seeking help and removing the shame and stigma often associated with mental health struggles.

**March 7, 2024**  
6 - 7:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

Toronto District School Board | tdsb Mental Health & Well-Being | TLL TEACHERS LEARNING AND LEADING | Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement



## Learn4Life Adult Community Programs - Spring

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[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Spring 2024 registration is now open for Learn4Life's Adult General Interest Program! Open to adults 18 years of age and seniors, the Learn4Life program offers a unique and valuable opportunity for individuals to pursue their interests, expand their knowledge, and engage in lifelong learning with a wide range of courses and activities designed to cater to diverse interests and passions: from Pickleball to Feng Shui, from Birdwatching to Payroll Level II, and from Latin Rhythm dancing to Arabic Beginner level II - and much more.

Visit [Learn4Life's program page](#) for more information.

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## March is Greek Heritage Month



March is Greek Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture.

The theme for this year is: "Greek Thought and Civilization: From Myth to Logos - Ελληνική Σκέψη και Πολιτισμός: Από τον Μύθο στον Λόγο"

For more information and to access this year's calendar of activities: [GHM 2024 Calendar of Daily Activities](#)

Please join Sunday, April 7 at 1:30 pm for the Greek Independence Day Parade on the Danforth (meet at 15 Phin Avenue at 1 pm).

Please join for the GHM Closing Event on Saturday, April 13th at the Greek Community Centre at 30 Thorncliffe Park Drive from 1 to 3 pm.

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## School Year Calendar 2023-2024

See below for all dates where there is no in-school learning.

24 - 25 April 2024

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[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Please note that the April P.A. Day has been rescheduled to April 8 (changed from the April 19 date listed below).

Updated School Year Calendars for 2023-2024 are available online. These include PA days, exam days for final evaluations, Board and Statutory holidays, and other notable school year details.



## KEY DATES - SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2023-2024

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, inclusive.

Professional Activity Days	October	November	December	January	February	April	June
Elementary Schools	6	17	8	19	16	19	7
Secondary Schools	6	17			1, 16	19	27, 28

Designation of Professional Activity Days	
Elementary	Secondary
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. October 6, 2023 – Professional Development</li> <li>2. November 17, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>3. December 8, 2023 – Assessment</li> <li>4. January 19, 2024 – Assessment and Reporting</li> <li>5. February 16, 2024 – Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>6. April 19, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>7. June 7, 2024 – Assessment and Reporting</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. October 6, 2023 – Professional Development</li> <li>2. November 17, 2023 - Professional Development</li> <li>3. February 1, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>4. February 16, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>5. April 19, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>6. June 27, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>7. June 28, 2024 - Professional Development</li> </ol>

**EQAO:** - The following dates have been established:

**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD  
**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD

**OSSLT:** TBD  
**Primary/Junior EQAO:** TBD

Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)	
<b>Labour Day:</b>	<b>September 4, 2023</b>
<b>Thanksgiving:</b>	<b>October 9, 2023</b>
<b>Winter Break:</b>	<b>December 25, 2023 – January 5, 2024</b>
<b>Family Day:</b>	<b>February 19, 2024</b>
<b>Mid-Winter Break:</b>	<b>March 11 - 15, 2024</b>
<b>Good Friday:</b>	<b>March 29, 2024</b>
<b>Easter Monday:</b>	<b>April 1, 2024</b>
<b>Victoria Day:</b>	<b>May 20, 2024</b>

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The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from  
September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, inclusive

Professional Activity Days	September	October	November	January	February	June
Elementary Schools	27	11	15, 29	17	14	6
Secondary Schools		11	15, 29	30	14	26, 27

Designation of Professional Activity Days	
Elementary	Secondary
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. September 27, 2024 – Professional Development</li> <li>2. October 11, 2024 – Professional Development</li> <li>3. November 15, 2024 – Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>4. November 29, 2024 – Professional Development</li> <li>5. January 17, 2025 – Assessment and Reporting</li> <li>6. February 14, 2025 – Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>7. June 6, 2025 – Assessment and Reporting</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. October 11, 2024 – Professional Development</li> <li>2. November 15, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>3. November 29, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>4. January 30, 2025 - Professional Development</li> <li>5. February 14, 2025 - Professional Development</li> <li>6. June 26, 2025 - Professional Development</li> <li>7. June 27, 2025 - Professional Development</li> </ol>

**EQAO:** - The following dates have been established:

Gr. 9 Math: TBD  
Gr. 9 Math: TBD

OSSLT: TBD  
Primary/Junior EQAO: TBD

Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)	
Labour Day:	September 2, 2024
Thanksgiving:	October 14, 2024
Winter Break:	December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025
Family Day:	February 17, 2025
Mid-Winter Break:	March 10-14, 2025
Good Friday:	April 18, 2025
Easter Monday:	April 21, 2025
Victoria Day:	May 19, 2025

## Steps to Address Your Questions and Concerns

Here at the TDSB, we are always open to hearing your questions and concerns and make every effort to address them as quickly as possible. Your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact, followed by the school's principal, the school superintendent, and me, your

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

[Read on the website for more information](#)

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## Stay Connected with your school and the board

### TDSB Update

Sign-up for [TDSB Update](#) and stay informed about recent Board decisions and district-wide news.

### Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2023. For a list of upcoming meetings, including many about the Budget, please click on the [meeting schedule](#) and/or the [calendar](#) on the main webpage of [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca). Board and Committee Meetings can be [watched online](#).

### Follow the TDSB

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter ([@TDSB](#)), Facebook ([@toronto.dsb](#)), Instagram ([@Torontodsb](#)), and Threads ([@Torontodsb](#)) accounts

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**If you notice anything at a school that concerns you, please call the TDSB 24-hour Call Centre (416) 395-4620, Toronto Police Services Dispatch (non-emergencies via 416-808-2222), and/or Toronto 311.**

**If you or a family member is in crisis, please contact Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or get support right now by texting CONNECT to 686868.**



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