

BACKGROUND

What is a Model School?

A Model School is one of 150 inner city schools as determined by the Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) Learning Opportunities Index (LOI). Every Model School is committed to the following essential components:

- 1) Innovation in teaching and learning practice and in school structure
- 2) Support Services to meet social, emotional and physical well-being of students
- 3) School as the heart of the community
- 4) Research, review and evaluation of students and programs
- 5) Commitment to share successful practices

The Model Schools for Inner Cities program is fundamentally rooted in a strength-based approach aimed at increasing access and opportunities for all students. When students, teachers, families and communities work collaboratively to create positive change, student achievement, well-being and engagement are increased.

What are inner city schools?

Inner city schools are identified by the TDSB as schools with a large concentration of families living below the poverty line. The Model Schools for Inner Cities Task Force Report (May 2005) identified seven inner cities across Toronto using a combination of TDSB research and external data sources. In each of these seven inner cities, a cluster of model schools works collaboratively to improve student achievement.

For more information, please contact:

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TDSB Model Schools for Inner Cities

The TDSB has developed the Model Schools for Inner Cities Program to increase opportunities and access for students and families to participate fully and equally in school and larger communities.

Model Schools provide strong, visionary leadership. Children, families and communities are brought together into the educational environment as participants and partners in the learning process, with the school becoming the heart of the community.

Each of the Model Schools supports strong professional development for all staff, develops successful practices, and shares resources with their cluster of schools.

Model Schools ensure that teachers understand the unique needs of children living in inner cities. Partnerships are being developed with faculties of education, as well as other community agencies, to ensure that new educators are familiar with the diverse strengths and needs these students bring to their schools.

Each of the Model Schools shares best practices and resources in a collaborative and innovative fashion with a cluster or group of schools in their area.

Impact of Model Schools for Inner Cities

Over 150 inner city school principals, staff and communities are partners in this initiative. There are approximately 75,000 students in the Model Schools for Inner Cities Program. The Model School Program is based on the TDSB Equity Policy.

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