


Specialized Programs

Interested in Specialized Schools and Programs?

Below you will find information outlining specific specialized programs. You will need to follow the Optional Attendance guidelines if you intend to apply to these schools/programs or any other school you may be interested in. See pages 30–33 for specific program locations and call schools for admission requirements.

If you are considering a change, ask your counsellor. To research these and/or other school course offerings, go to: www.tdsb.on.ca
Click on Find Your School > Specialized Schools and Programs

School Profiles on the Web:
www.tdsb.on.ca
 ↓
Find Your School
 ↓
All Secondary



Secondary Specialized Schools and Programs

In addition to its regular secondary school programs, schools may offer special emphasis packages/programs subject to Board approval. The criteria for Specialized Schools and Programs is as follows:

- A written, clearly articulated specific program focus (e.g., the arts, athletics, information technology) is required. To be designated a Specialized School; this focus must apply to the whole school.
- In secondary schools, students must take a minimum of seven courses directly related to the school's particular program focus. In the case of professional performing arts students or gifted athletes, students are not required to take the minimum number of courses related to their areas of focus. However, timetable accommodation must be made by the school to allow these students to pursue their area of focus.

The admission criteria, age appropriateness and entry differ for each of these programs.

Art Focus

These programs are for students who wish to pursue visual and performing arts at a professional level. This program consists of intensive programs within select schools as well as specialized schools focused solely on the arts. The specialized facilities within these schools enable them to offer a unique learning experience for students who want to specialize in their elective courses in the arts.

Cyber Arts/Studies

These programs combine computers and art in small classroom settings where students may learn animation, sound and design technology, integrated computer studies and applications.

Dental Assistant

This program beginning in Grade 11 prepares students who have an interest in preparing for the work of a dental assistant.

Entrepreneurship

This program features an enhanced core curriculum designed to develop the entrepreneurial characteristics of innovation, flexibility and self-reliance required to be successful in a business-driven environment.

Exceptional Athletes/Arts

These programs accommodate the special needs of provincial or national athletes or by allowing special time-

tables and unusual arrangements to coexist with coaching and travel schedules. TDSB schools provide programs that bring athletes together for curriculum contact, leadership and mutual support. Similarly, programs exist for actors.

Integrated Technology

In this program students are encouraged to use math, science and tech skills in all subject areas. It allows students to combine the knowledge of traditional academic disciplines with a problem solving approach to change.

International Baccalaureate

The Baccalaureate program is a world-renowned graduation diploma which is recognized for admission to universities throughout the world. Students participating in the program will:

- demonstrate and maintain superior academic achievement;
- show a keen interest in the International field;
- grasp new information quickly and retain it;
- be persistent and self-motivated;
- demonstrate excellence;
- show commitment to community service.

All external examinations, certificates and diplomas are prepared, graded and awarded by the Geneva-based International Baccalaureate Office. For more information regarding this program refer to the Specific Program Location Chart and contact the schools directly.

Specialized Programs



International Studies/ Languages Programs

These programs may involve the study of varying disciplines that include business and commerce, languages etc., all designed to give students a global perspective.

Leadership Pathway

The Leadership Pathway program helps students assume ownership for their leadership development in that they must take the initiative to become involved in a variety of in school and community leadership opportunities. Students develop and

expand their leadership skills through involvement in clubs and councils, specialized classes, additional community Involvement hours, guest speaker sessions and workshops.

Math, Science & Technology

These programs are designed for students who express a deep understanding and interest of these subjects. Some of these programs include TOPS and MACS for example.

Media Arts

These programs often integrate television and media arts technologies

or graphic design. They can focus on production, live production or print media.

Pre-Advanced Placement

A specialized enrichment program with focus on mathematics, computers, sciences, arts and humanities. Programs like RUSH, prepare students for the Advanced Placement program.

Specialized Skills Programs

Skills Enhanced Programs

The Board deems Specialized Programs – Skills Enhanced based on embedded criteria for specialized school/program status. The additional criteria are as follows:

- All four destinations, workplace, university, apprenticeship and college, must be addressed in programming and marketing.
- There is an established or potential partnership with local community colleges, universities or other post-secondary training institutions and related sector councils.
- Cooperative education and other experiential-based programming are integral parts of the program.
- Courses in English, Mathematics and Science are available on-site with learning activities/units related to the skills-enhanced program.
- Components of industry recognition and external accreditation opportunities are available to students.
- Students are admitted to Specialized Programs – Skills Enhanced to a maximum number as space allows, once local school community needs are met.
- Students must apply to programs. Selection criteria are clearly established to help ensure appropriate student placement for success. Each school has developed specific admission criteria. Check with them for details.

Skills Enhanced Programs include:

Construction Technology
Hairstylist

Hospitality

Metal Machining

Transportation

Optional Attendance

Schools in the Toronto District School Board must enroll students from their designated attendance areas as a first priority. If a school's enrollment capacity has not been reached, the school may then enroll students from other attendance areas in Toronto. The TDSB Optional Attendance Policy governs the procedures for students who wish to attend a school beyond their designated attendance area.

A map showing the secondary schools located in the Board are included in this book. In order to assist you, the TDSB has also provided a search page on its web site.

Go to:

www.tdsb.on.ca and click on "Find Your Schools"