



Three-Year Enrolment Projections 2021-22 to 2023-24

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 24 February, 2021

Report No.: 02-21-4020

Strategic Directions

- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Three-Year Enrolment Projections 2021-22 to 2023-24 report be received.

Context

Enrolment projections are updated annually to support budget planning, staff allocation, and Ministry reporting. The tables below outline the actual and projected Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) of Pupils of the Board for 2019-20 to 2023-24, and the net change in enrolment over the next three years.

ADE is a measure of enrolment that the Ministry uses to allocate funding. It is based on full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments counted on the last days of October and March of a school year (full-time equivalent counts students by the amount of time they are registered for instruction). The average of these two counts is the ADE. "Pupils of the Board" are defined as all pupils that are eligible for Ministry funding. Fee-paying students are not included in the totals.

Projected ADE Enrolment (expressed as Pupils of the Board)

	Actual 2019-2020	Projected 2020-2021	Projected 2021-2022	Projected 2022-2023	Projected 2023-2024
JK/SK	34,846.16	32,100.68	32,515.00	33,854.85	34,446.84
Grades 1 to 3	53,298.85	52,266.00	51,363.00	50,460.45	50,228.68
Grades 4 to 8	85,756.30	84,874.00	84,347.00	84,278.39	83,937.05
Total Elementary	173,901.31	169,240.68	168,225.00	168,593.69	168,612.56

	Actual 2019-2020	Projected 2020-2021	Projected 2021-2022	Projected 2022-2023	Projected 2023-2024
Secondary	69,329.59	68,791.00	69,585.00	70,922.26	71,894.69
Total Day School	243,230.90	238,031.68	237,810.00	239,515.95	240,507.25

Net Change Year over Year Enrolment Analysis

	20-21 vs 19-20	21-22 vs 20-21	22-23 vs 21-22	23-24 vs 22-23
JK/SK	-2,745.48	414.32	1,339.85	591.99
Grades 1 to 3	-1,032.85	-903.00	-902.55	-231.78
Grades 4 to 8	-882.30	-527.00	-68.61	-341.34
Total Elementary	-4,660.63	-1,015.68	368.69	18.87
Secondary	-538.59	794.00	1,337.26	972.43
Total Day School	-5,199.22	-221.68	1,705.95	991.30

Elementary Enrolment Projections

Elementary ADE enrolment is projected to experience a decline of 1,016 students for 2021-22 and then to remain fairly stable over the next two years.

COVID-19 has impacted elementary school enrolment this year, with a decline of 4,660 students compared with the previous school year. A major reason for the decline in elementary enrolment from last school year was a decrease of approximately 2,000 newcomer students due to COVID-19 restrictions. Another major reason for the decline was that 2,745 fewer JK and SK students enrolled at the TDSB this year. This suggests that parents are keeping their 4 and 5 year old children at home rather than sending them to school (they have this option since their children are not compulsory school age yet).

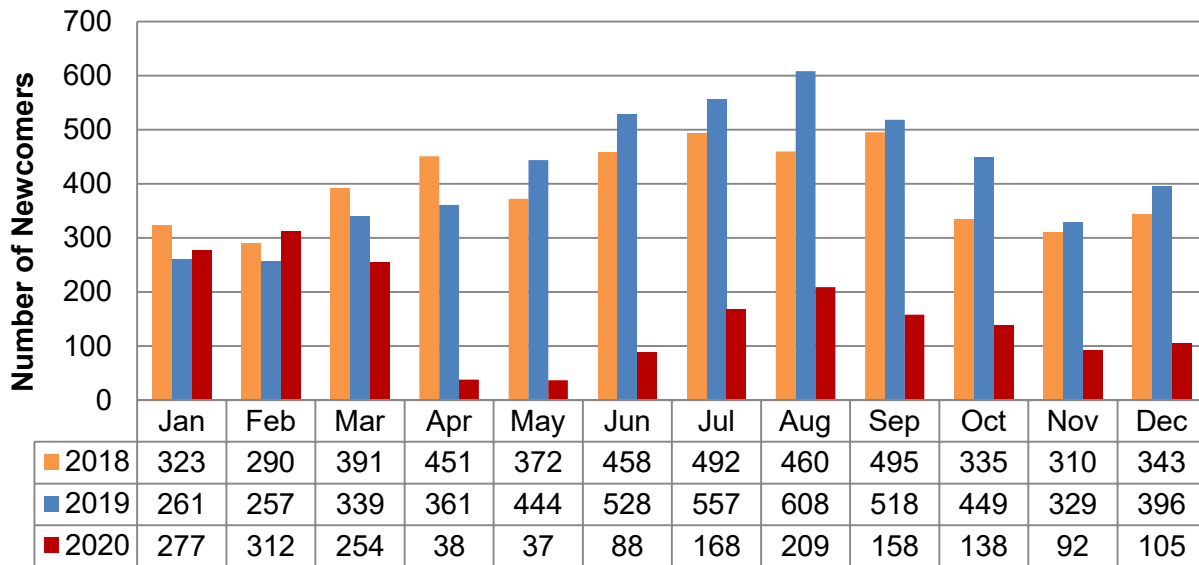
Projecting elementary enrolments for next year and subsequent years is challenging due to the ongoing uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a challenge that all school boards in Ontario are facing. When projecting enrolments for next year, the following assumptions were made:

- A small increase to the number of junior kindergarten students from the low number that enrolled in the fall of 2020
- An increase in SK and Grade 1 enrolment to account for the kindergarten students that did not enrol this year
- Newcomer enrolment will continue at current levels until fall 2021

The assumptions applied above will have varying impacts on enrolment growth next year. The increase in kindergarten students will have a positive effect; however

maintaining current levels of newcomer enrolment will result in declining enrolment for next school year.

Monthly Elementary Newcomer Enrolment: 2018, 2019 and 2020



When the pandemic began in March 2020, newcomer enrolment at the TDSB was immediately impacted. As seen in the above chart, the TDSB would normally welcome on average approximately 400 newcomer elementary students each month, however from April 2020 through to December 2020, the average was 115. Projections assume that this trend will continue until the fall, at which point newcomer enrolment will start to increase as vaccines become widely available.

In addition to the impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, elementary projections at the front end (incoming JK enrolment) are also influenced by live births and the three-year-old preschool population in the City of Toronto. Live births have remained fairly stable over the past four years (2016 to 2019), resulting in stable projections for the three-year-old population group. Planning relies on the three-year-old preschool population to estimate how many new JK students will enter the TDSB the following year. Between 2017 and 2019, the TDSB has retained an average share of approximately 64.5% of the previous year’s three-year-old population cohort. In 2020 however, this share dropped to 58%. With COVID-19 vaccination underway, there is a belief that more students will enrol in JK in September 2021 therefore projections assume a gradual return to pre-COVID retention rates.

Elementary enrolment is also influenced by the size of the outgoing Grade 8 cohort compared with the size of the incoming JK population. This year, a larger Grade 8 graduating cohort (17,197) is projected to be replaced by a smaller incoming JK cohort (16,407). This has tempered the enrolment recovery next year.

Retention throughout the grades (SK to Grade 8) is another indicator used in calculating enrolment projections. Historical trends are analyzed to provide insight for future trends. The relationship between the number of students in a grade and the number of students that moves on to the next grade in the following year is the retention rate. Retention rates in every grade were lower this year due to the reduced number of newcomer students. Projections assume that retention rates will gradually return to pre-COVID levels over the next three years as the federal government plans to significantly increase immigration levels from 2021 to 2023 to make up for the 2020 shortfall as part of Canada's economic recovery plan.

Despite the optimistic plans for immigration increases, it is important to remember that the newcomer loss experienced this year will not be immediately replaced. The return to previous levels will be gradual as the COVID-19 situation improves. As a result, elementary enrolment is expected decline next year, then stabilize over the next two to three years.

Secondary Enrolment Projections

Secondary enrolment is projected to increase by 794 students in 2021-22, followed by continued increases over the next two years.

Compared with the elementary panel, COVID-19 had a lesser impact on secondary school enrolment this year, with a decline of only 539 students compared with the previous school year. Approximately 900 fewer newcomer students attended TDSB schools this year compared to the year before.

Secondary projections at the front end are influenced by the incoming Grade 9 cohort. Smaller graduating Grade 8 classes have worked their way through the elementary panel into the secondary panel, partially contributing to declining secondary enrolments over the past ten years. This trend is anticipated to change next year, with larger graduating Grade 8 cohorts entering Grade 9, contributing to the projected enrolment growth in this panel.

Retention throughout the age groups (14 to 21+) is another indicator used in calculating secondary enrolment projections. The relationship between the number of students in an age group and the number of students that moves on to the next age group in the following year is the retention rate. Similar to the elementary panel, retention rates in every grade were lower this year due to the reduced number of newcomer students. Projections for this panel also assume that retention rates will gradually return to pre-COVID levels over the next three years as the federal government plans to significantly increase immigration levels from 2021 to 2023.

System Enrolment Projections

As a system, TDSB enrolment is projected to decrease in 2021-22 by 222 students, followed by an increase of 1,706 students in 2022-23 and an increase of 991 students in 2023-24.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Not applicable.

Resource Implications

The Business Services Department uses the enrolment projections in this report to prepare a three-year forecast of the financial position of the Board.

Communications Considerations

Not applicable.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Not applicable.

Appendices

Not applicable.

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