



## **Program Area Review for Armour Heights Public School, Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School, and St. Andrew's Middle School**

**To:** Planning and Priorities Committee

**Date:** 6 April, 2021

**Report No.:** 04-21-4068

### **Strategic Directions**

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

- a) Armour Heights Public School be converted from a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 school to a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, retaining Grade 7 effective September 1, 2021, and Grade 8 effective September 1, 2022;
- b) The junior to intermediate pathway from Armour Heights Public School to St. Andrew's Middle School be grandparented for the 2021/22 school year;
- c) The shared junior attendance boundary between Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School and Armour Heights Public School be directed entirely to Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School effective September 1, 2021.

### **Context**

A grade range study for Armour Heights PS has been listed in the Long-Term Planning and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) since the Junior High School reviews were completed in 2016. During the York Mills Cluster of Schools Junior High Review, members of the Armour Heights PS community had expressed an interest in expanding the grade range to serve Junior Kindergarten (JK) to Grade 8. At the time, the school was over capacity and the addition of two grades to the school would have added to

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accommodation pressure at the school. As a result of community consultation during that review, Armour Heights PS remained a JK to Grade 6 school despite all other feeder schools to St. Andrew's MS becoming JK to Grade 5 schools. A reason the community wanted Armour Heights PS to remain JK to Grade 6 and be considered for expansion to Grade 8 was due to the distance that students in the Armour Heights area have to travel to St. Andrew's MS (a portion of the Armour Heights area is beyond 3.2 km to St. Andrew's MS). Over the past few years, enrolment at Armour Heights has declined, easing the accommodation pressure and providing available space for the grade range expansion.

The LTPAS for 2020-2029, approved in November 2020, identified the following review:

- Explore a grade expansion from JK-6 to JK-8 at Armour Heights PS. Graduating students are currently directed to St. Andrew's MS at Grade 7.

The review of shared attendance boundaries is also a priority in the LTPAS. There is a small shared attendance area associated with Armour Heights PS where residents have the choice of attending Armour Heights PS or Ledbury Park EMS.

Undertaking both of these reviews aligns with the guiding principles in the LTPAS of minimizing transitions for students and establishing consistent attendance boundaries.

A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) comprised of the area Trustees, Superintendents, Principals and Planning staff, was established in January 2021. The objective of the LFT was to investigate whether a grade range expansion at Armour Heights to a JK to Grade 8 school was possible. The shared junior attendance boundary between Armour Heights and Ledbury Park EMS would also be examined.

The LFT created a JK to Grade 8 scenario for the school showing it was possible to accommodate the increased enrolment associated with the two additional grades without the need for capital improvements (see Appendix A). Data was also presented showing that there are currently no JK to Grade 6 students residing in the shared boundary who attend Armour Heights PS (see Appendix B).

A Program Area Review Team (PART) was established in February 2021. The objective of the PART was to continue the work of the LFT in evaluating the feasibility of the grade range and boundary change by seeking advice and feedback from parent representatives from the impacted schools as well as the broader community. Input was provided from the PART throughout the course of two working meetings on March 4 and 23, 2021 and at the public meeting held on March 18, 2021.

The PART reviewed the options presented and agreed with the scenario developed by the LFT that included the grade range change as well as the expansion of the junior attendance area for Ledbury Park EMS to include the shared area exclusively (see Appendix C and D). The PART recommended the inclusion of a grandparenting clause

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for the 2021/2022 school year for Grade 6 students at Armour Heights to be able to continue to St. Andrew's MS in September 2021.

Following the public meeting, a survey was conducted to gauge the public's support of the grade range expansion and junior boundary change. The survey indicated that most of the 12 respondents were supportive of both the grade range expansion and the junior attendance boundary change.

Throughout the course of the PART process, parents at the PART working meetings and public meeting made comments and asked questions regarding the proposed grade range and boundary changes. A summary of these findings can be found within the PART report (see Appendix E).

The PART carefully analyzed the detailed actual and projected enrolment data, capacity and utilization data, as well as community feedback including survey responses related to the options. After thorough discussion and analysis, the PART achieved consensus on the grade range expansion at Armour Heights PS. Consensus was also reached on the attendance boundary change, to assign the shared junior boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS, entirely to Ledbury Park EMS.

Staff is in agreement with the recommendations of the PART.

### **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

Subject to Board approval, the proposed grade range expansion at Armour Heights PS and boundary change would be implemented beginning September 1, 2021 (see Appendix F). Current Grade 6 parents/guardians will receive a survey to indicate their preference (stay at Armour Heights PS or continue to St. Andrew's MS for Grade 7) to assist with staffing for the 2021/2022 school year.

### **Resource Implications**

No capital improvements are being proposed with this grade range expansion. With the grade expansion at Armour Heights PS, there is some potential cost savings on transportation. Approximately 20 elementary students over 12 years of age living within the Armour Heights PS boundary are more than 3.2 km from St. Andrew's MS and as such, are eligible to receive TTC tickets. With the grade range expansion, these students would be within walking distance to Armour Heights PS and would not require transportation.

### **Communications Considerations**

Details about the outcome of the review will be posted on the TDSB's Accommodation Reviews website. Information and notice of the Board decision will also be provided

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through the school websites, the school profile pages on the TDSB website, backpack circulation, and will be emailed to all attendees at the public meeting who provided an email address. A survey will be distributed to parents/guardians of current Grade 6 students to have them indicate their intent to attend either Armour Heights PS or St. Andrew's MS in September 2021.

Notation will be added to the street guide notifying anyone using 'Find Your School' search function of the Board-approved changes and directing them to the latest information about the outcome of this review.

### **Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)**

P068 Accommodation and Program Review

PR715 Program Area Review

Policy P020 Transportation of Students

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Planning and Enrolment Data
- Appendix B: Map of Shared Attendance Area Between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS
- Appendix C: Map of Current and Proposed Junior Attendances Areas
- Appendix D: Map of Current and Proposed Intermediate Attendance Areas
- Appendix E: Final Report of the Program Area Review Team for Armour Heights PS Ledbury Park EMS and St Andrews MS
- Appendix F: Student Accommodation and Program Plan

### **From**

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Bill Wallace, Coordinator, Educational Planning, Strategy and Planning, at [william.wallace@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:william.wallace@tdsb.on.ca) or at 416-394-3944

**Planning and Enrolment Data**

**Table 1: Status Quo**  
No grade range expansion

Facility	Capacity	October 31, 2020 Actual			October 31, 2025 Projection			October 31, 2030 Projection		
		Enrolment	Utilization	Portables	Enrolment	Utilization	Portables	Enrolment	Utilization	Portables
Armour Heights PS	289	211	73%	0	207	72%	0	218	75%	0
St. Andrews MS	527	458	87%	0	446	85%	0	496	94%	0
Ledbury Park EMS	554	458	83%	0	512	92%	0	530	96%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>0</b>

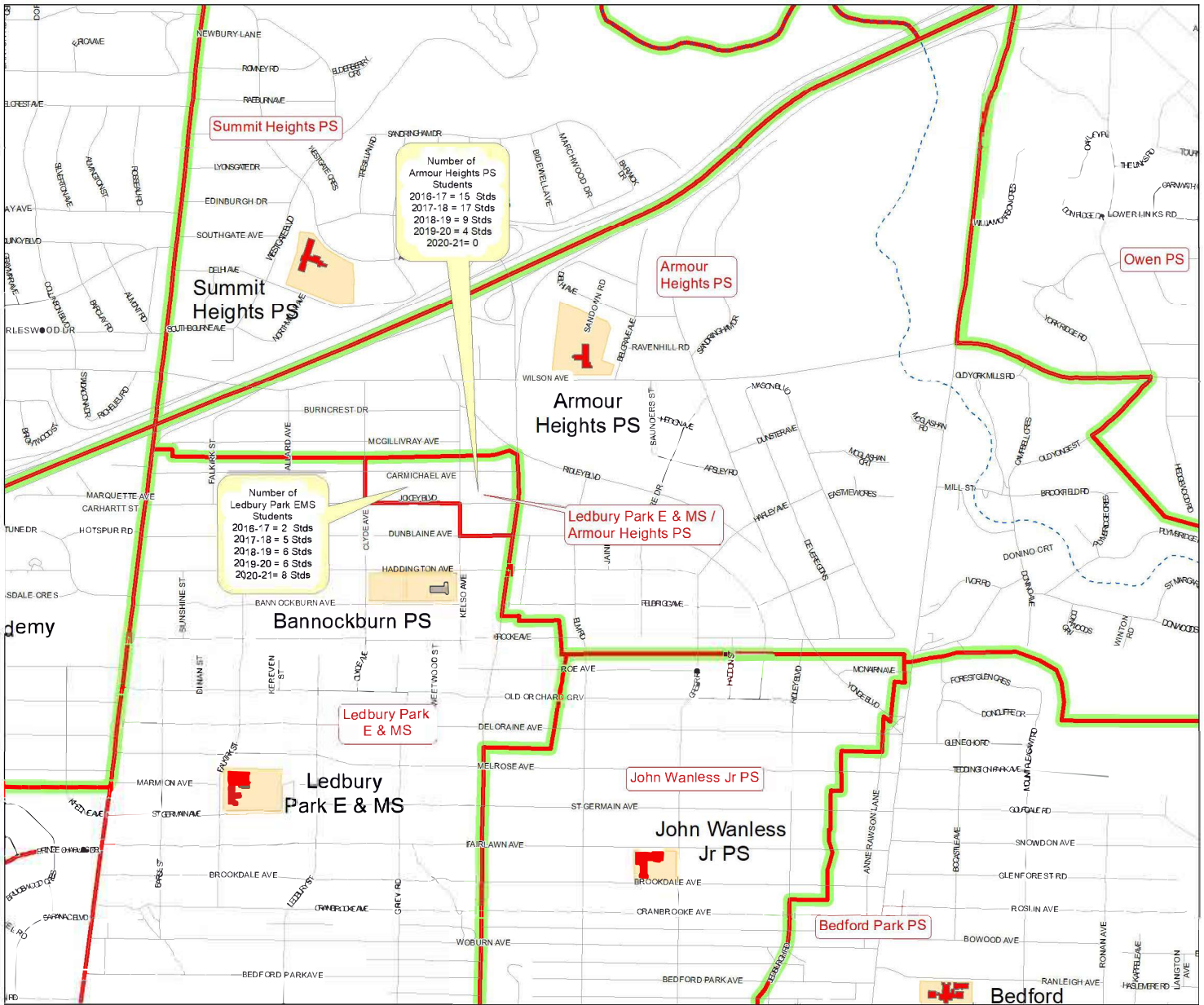
**Table 2: Staff Recommendation**  
**Grade range change to JK-8 at Armour Heights PS, shared boundary assigned to Ledbury Park EMS**

It is recommended:

- a) That Armour Heights Public School be converted from a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 school to a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, retaining Grade 7 effective September 1, 2021, and Grade 8 effective 1 September, 2022.
- b) That the junior to intermediate pathway from Armour Heights PS to St. Andrew's MS be grandparented for the 2021/22 school year.
- c) That the shared junior boundary between Ledbury Park EMS and Armour Heights PS, be directed entirely to Ledbury Park EMS.

Facility	Capacity	October 31, 2020 Actual			October 31, 2025 Projection			October 31, 2030 Projection		
		Enrolment	Utilization	Portables	Enrolment	Utilization	Portables	Enrolment	Utilization	Portables
Armour Heights PS	289	211	73%	0	240	83%	0	257	89%	0
St. Andrews MS	527	458	87%	0	419	80%	0	463	88%	0
Ledbury Park EMS	554	458	83%	0	512	92%	0	530	96%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>0</b>

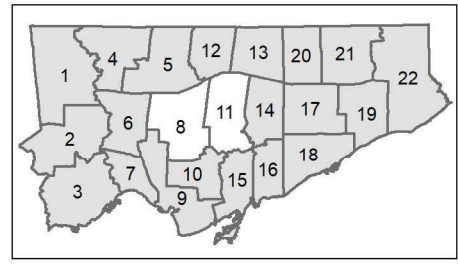
### Map of Shared Attendance Area Between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS



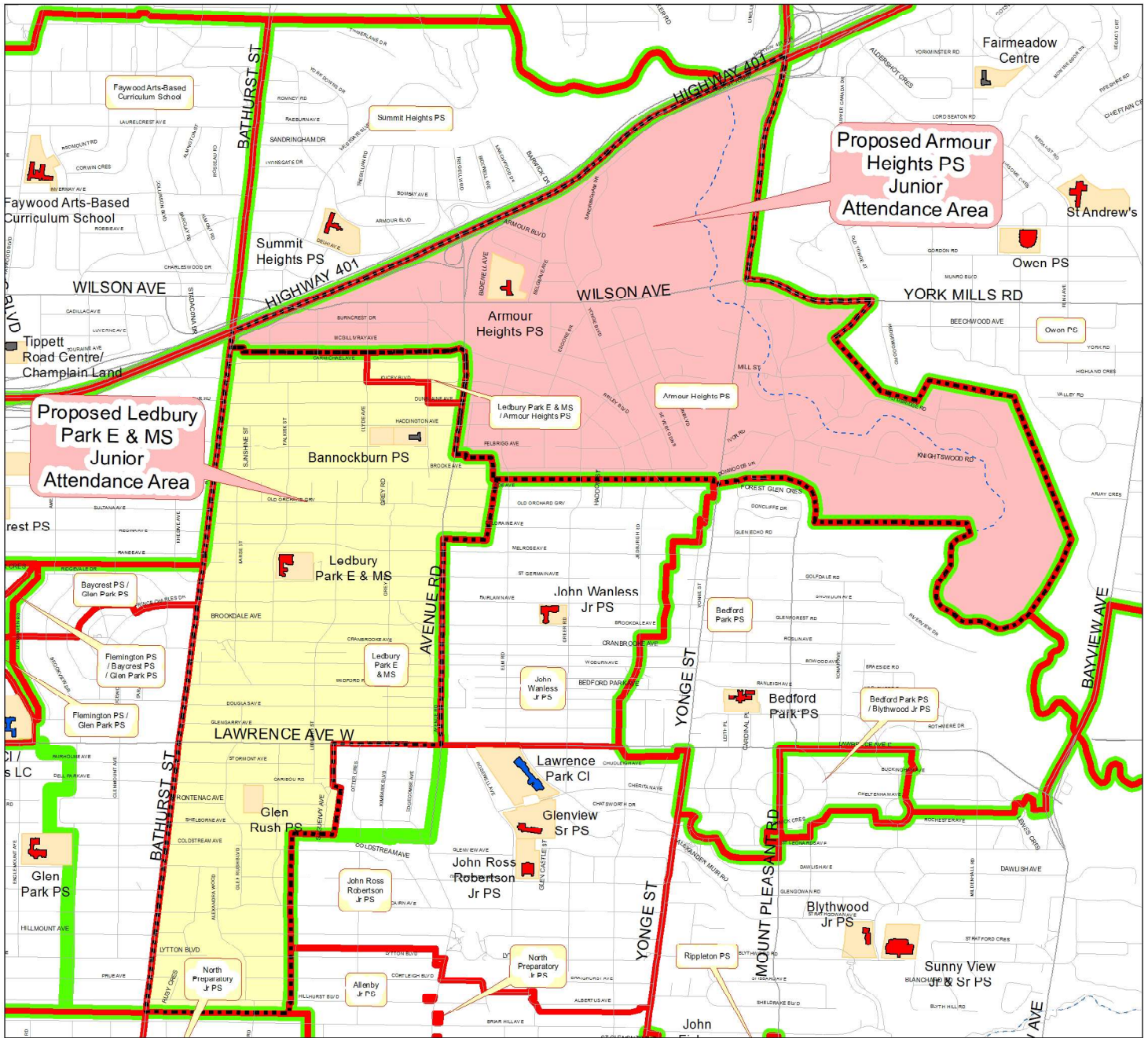
**Please note:**  
The lines on this map representing the Attendance Areas are approximate. For specific information on designated schools to serve individual addresses, please consult the TDSB Street Guide.

Produced by:  
Strategy and Planning  
February 2021  
Source:  
Base Map- Geospatial Competency Centre  
Facility - Strategy and Planning, TDSB  
Data- City of Toronto

- Legend:**
- Elementary School
  - Secondary School
  - Other Facility
  - Site
  - Junior Attendance Area
  - Intermediate Attendance Area
  - Road
  - Railway
  - Utilityline
  - Waterway



Map of Current and Proposed Junior Attendance Areas



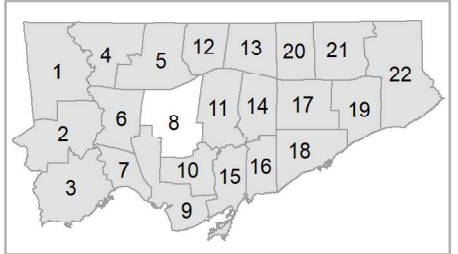
**Please note:**  
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0 0.1250.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 km

Produced by:  
Planning Division, TDSB  
March 2021  
Source:  
Base Map- Geospatial Competency Centre  
Facility - Planning Division, TDSB  
Data- City of Toronto

**Legend:**

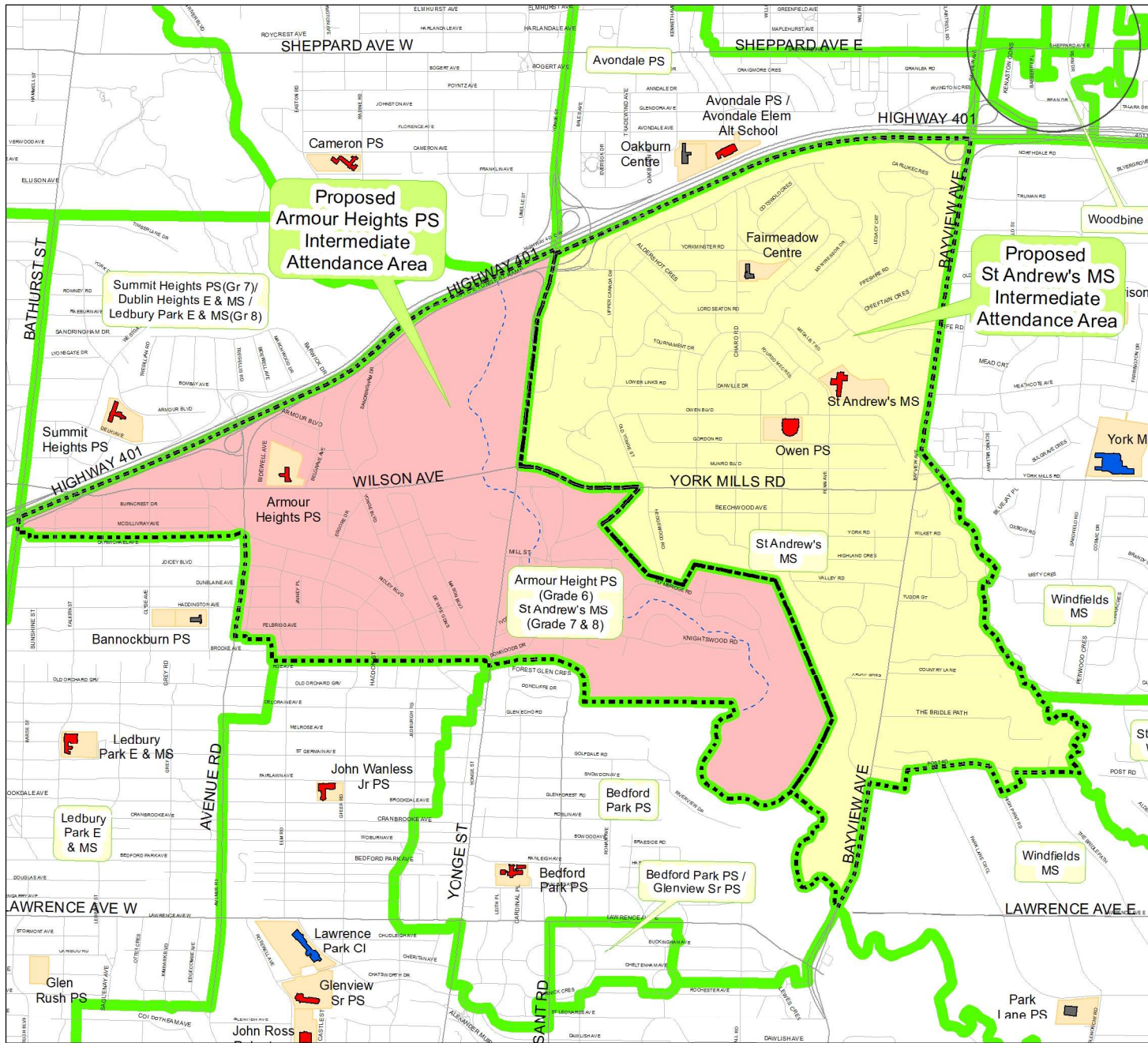
- Elementary School
- Elementary and Secondary School
- Secondary School
- Other TDSB Facility
- Site
- Railway
- Road
- Waterway
- Utility Line
- Junior Attendance Area
- Intermediate Attendance Area
- Proposed Junior Attendance Area
- Ward Boundary





Toronto District School Board

# Map of Current and Proposed Intermediate Attendance Areas

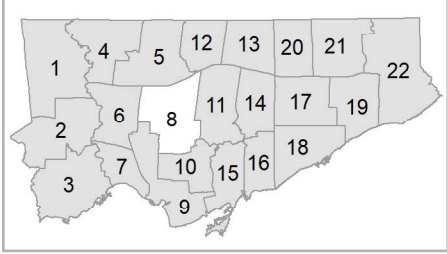


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March 2021  
Source:  
Base Map- Geospatial Competency Centre  
Facility - Planning Division, TDSB  
Data- City of Toronto

- Legend:
- Elementary School
  - Elementary and Secondary School
  - Secondary School
  - Other TDSB Facility
  - Site
  - Railway
  - Road
  - Waterway
  - Utility Line
  - Intermediate Attendance Area
  - Proposed Intermediate Attendance Area
  - Ward Boundary





**Final Report of the Program Area Review Team for  
Armour Heights PS, St. Andrew's MS, and Ledbury Park EMS  
March 24, 2021**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Program Area Review Team recommends:**

- 1. That the grades at Armour Heights PS be expanded from JK-6 to JK-8 starting in September 2021. Armour Heights PS becomes a JK-7 school in 2021 and JK-8 school in 2022.**
- 2. That the junior to intermediate pathway from Armour Heights PS to St. Andrew's MS be grandparented for the 2021/22 school year.**
- 3. That the shared junior boundary between Ledbury Park EMS and Armour Heights PS, be directed entirely to Ledbury Park EMS.**

#### BACKGROUND

A Grade Range study for Armour Heights PS has been listed in the Long-Term Planning and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) since the Junior High School studies were completed in 2016. During the York Mills Cluster of Schools Junior High Review, members of the Armour Heights PS community had expressed an interest in expanding the grade range to become a JK-8 school from a JK-6. At the time the school was over capacity and the addition of two grades to the school would not have helped student accommodation issues. As a result of community consultation during that review, Armour Heights PS remained a JK-6 school despite all other feeder schools to St. Andrew's MS becoming JK-5 schools. Over the past few years, Armour Heights has become less utilized which allowed the opportunity to reconsider the grade range expansion.

A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) comprised of the area Trustees, Superintendents, TDSB Principals and planning staff, was established in January 2021. The objective of the LFT was to investigate whether a Grade Range expansion at Armour Heights to a JK-8 school was possible. The shared Junior boundary between Armour Heights and Ledbury Park EMS would also be examined.

The LFT created a JK-8 model for the school showing it was possible to accommodate two additional grades at the school without the need for capital improvements. Data was also presented showing that there are currently no JK-6 students in the shared boundary that attend Armour Heights PS.

The transition of the LFT to a Program Area Review Team (PART) was approved by Central Accommodation Team (CAT) on February 18, 2021. The objective of

the PART is to continue the work of the LFT in evaluating the feasibility of the Grade Range and Boundary Change by seeking advice and feedback from parent representatives from the impacted schools throughout the course of two working meetings.

At the first PART meeting, an explanation of the role of the PART as an advisory committee was given. The group was shown the scenario the LFT created. The data included actual 2020 student enrolments and projected 2025 and 2030 enrolments (see Appendix A) based on the grade range change and boundary change being considered (see Appendix B).

The comments and questions posed at the PART meeting informed the content of the presentation at the public meeting. A copy of the presentation can be found online at the Armour Heights Program Area Review website.

The PART held a second working meeting to discuss the feedback received at the public meeting and to recommend a proposed solution. A consensus was reached that Armour Heights should become a JK-8 school with grandparenting for the 2021-22 for grade 6 students who wish to attend St. Andrew's MS. A consensus was also reached that the shared junior boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS be assigned solely to Ledbury Park EMS.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Program Area Review Team		
School/Organization	Name	Role
Armour Heights Public School	Belinda Longe	Principal
Armour Heights Public School	Laura Berry	Parent Representative
Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School	Kari Hudson	Principal
Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School	Jason Rosen	Parent Representative
St Andrew's Middle School	Jessica Feldberg	Principal
St Andrew's Middle School	Zakia Nabbus	Parent Representative
St Andrew's Middle School	Nataliya Brylynska	Vice-Principal
TDSB Trustee	Shelley Laskin	Trustee, Ward 8
TDSB Trustee	Rachel Chernos Lin	Trustee, Ward 11
TDSB Superintendent	Denise Humphreys	Superintendent
TDSB Superintendent	Ron Felsen	Superintendent

Staff Resources		
Organization	Name	Role
TDSB	Sarah Libera	Planning Department
TDSB	William Wallace	Planning Department
TDSB	Dan Castaldo	Planning Department

TDSB	Effie Stathopoulos	Special Education
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Meeting Details		
Meeting Type	Date	Time
Committee	March 4, 2021	6:30-8:00 pm
Public Meeting	March 18, 2021	6:30-8:00 pm
Committee	March 23, 2021	6:30-8:00 pm

#### ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES

##### Grade Range Change

The proposed grade range change will:

- Eliminate a school transition for Armour Heights PS students
- Not significantly impact enrolment at St. Andrew's MS
- Be accommodated within existing classroom space at Armour Heights without any retrofits requiring capital

##### Junior Attendance Boundary Change

The proposed boundary change will:

- Eliminate a shared junior boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS and align with the intermediate boundary
- Will not impact any current Armour Heights PS or Ledbury Park EMS students

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There was a consensus to proceed with the Grade Range and Boundary Changes as presented.

The PART supports expanding the grade range at Armour Heights from JK-6 to JK-8 while grandparenting an opportunity for graduating students to continue to St. Andrew's MS for the 2021-22 school year. The PART also supports assigning the shared attendance boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS, to Ledbury Park EMS exclusively.

Throughout the course of our discussions, parents at the PART working meetings and public meeting made comments and asked questions regarding the proposed grade range and boundary changes. These are summarized under the following themes.

##### Grade Range change:

Parents believed the K-8 experience will provide a more nurturing and supportive environment while reducing the number of transitions for students. It will also help increase the size of the school and avoid longer commutes and/or TTC rides for Grade 7 and 8 students.

Concerns were raised about the potential of small Grade 7 and 8 cohorts, the experience of older students with no capital investment in specialized classrooms and their transition to secondary school from a K-8 model.

Junior Attendance Boundary change:

Parents were supportive since students are already attending Ledbury Park EMS. It would also eliminate the need for students within this boundary to cross two busy main streets, namely Avenue Road and Wilson Avenue.

There were some who prefer having the choice of two schools and do not agree with the Board policy of one school per address. The point was also raised that Armour Heights PS would benefit from the additional students from this boundary.

Other Feedback:

At both the public meeting and through the survey, questions were raised about the potential to change the secondary boundaries. Staff responded describing that changes to the secondary boundaries would require a larger review involving multiple secondary schools.

Throughout the course of our discussions, parents at the PART working meetings and public meeting provided feedback and raised several questions about the program and accommodation plan for these communities. The PART carefully considered the options presented and critically reflected with thoughtful feedback and questions.

The PART recommends pursuing the recommendations contained within this report.

Planning and Enrolment Data

Table 1: Status Quo

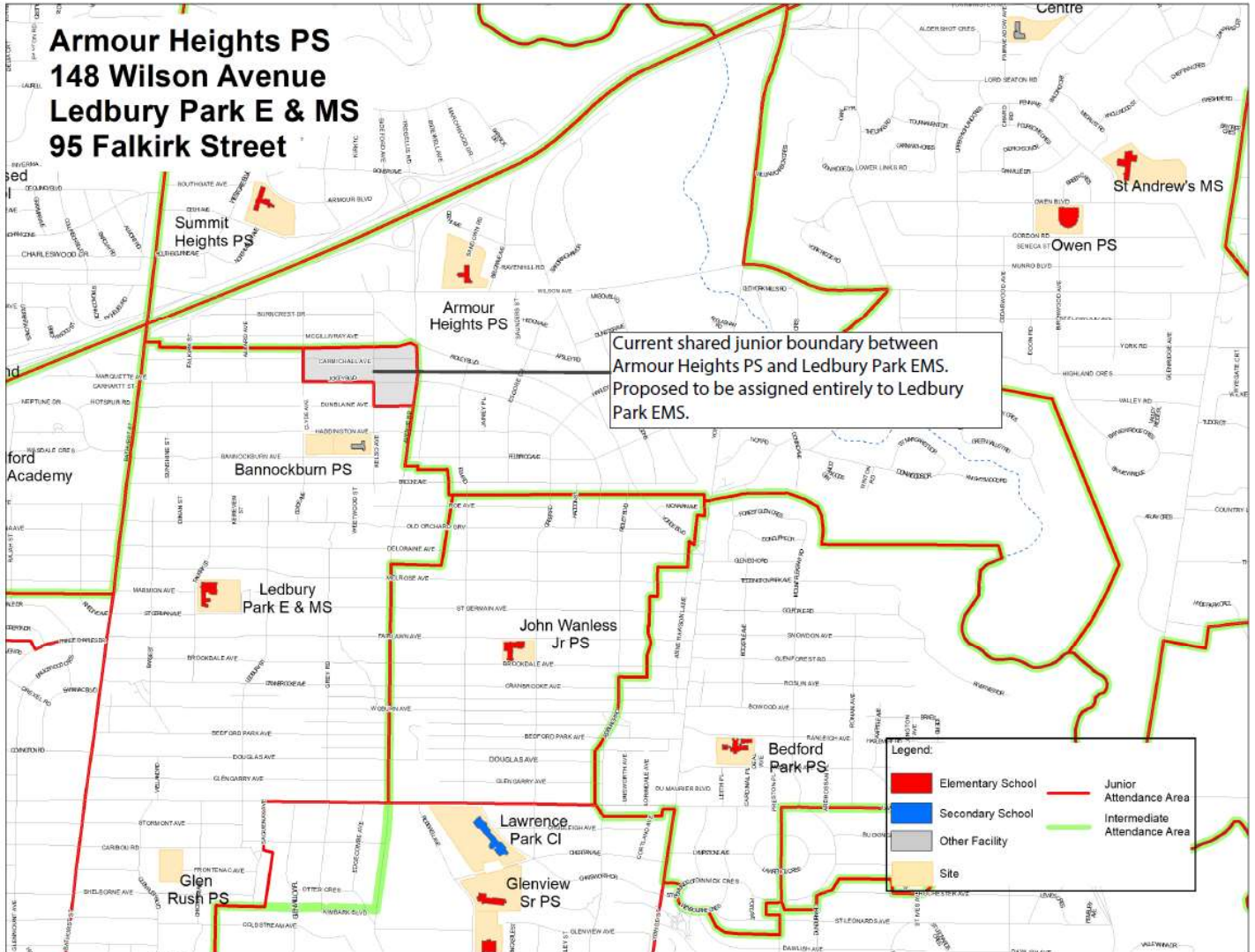
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Table 2: Grade Range and Boundary Change Scenario

Grade range change to JK-8 at Armour Heights PS, shared boundary assigned to Ledbury Park EMS

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Map 1. Shared Junior Boundary



**Student Accommodation and Program Plan**

<b>Overview:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand grades at Armour Heights PS from junior kindergarten to grade 6 to junior kindergarten to grade 8.</li> <li>• Assign shared junior boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS entirely to Ledbury Park EMS</li> </ul>
<b>Details for each school:</b>
<p><b>Armour Heights PS</b></p> <p>2021-22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion to offer grade 7</li> <li>• Grandparenting to allow the option for grade 7 students from Armour Heights PS to continue on to attend St. Andrew’s MS</li> <li>• Shared junior boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS directed exclusively to Ledbury Park EMS</li> </ul> <p>2022-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion to offer grade 8</li> </ul>
<p><b>St. Andrew’s MS</b></p> <p>2021-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grandparenting to allow the option for grade 7 students from Armour Heights PS to continue to attend St. Andrew’s MS</li> </ul> <p>2022-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No longer receives grade 7 or 8s from Armour Heights PS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ledbury Park EMS</b></p> <p>2021-22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared junior boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park EMS directed exclusively to Ledbury Park EMS</li> </ul>

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