



TDSB International Students 2018-2019: Annual Report

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 4 June, 2019

Report No.: 06-19-3672

Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- 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 the Annual Report on TDSB International Students 2018-2019 be received.

Context

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has been engaged in an internationalization strategy since before amalgamation in 1998. In the six former legacy boards of education, international education programs such as short term, long term, exchanges and international heritage language programs have operated in different formats. The Toronto District School Board International Students and Admissions Office formed when the legacy boards amalgamated in 1998.

Enrolment/Headcount

We currently have a headcount of approximately 2500 international students in the Board. This headcount includes both elementary and secondary school students. In addition, the Board welcomed 150 international students to short

term programs during the 2018-19 academic year. Short term programs are usually four to eight weeks long and often involve elementary/middle school students. Together, international students generated approximately \$32 million during the 2018-19 school year. Year after year, there is a steady increase of international students who have selected the TDSB to pursue their education, (see Appendix A). Potential international students can apply one year before entering the following academic grade. The TDSB accepts applications for international students from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Location

Once admitted, elementary students attend their local school as per their home address. Secondary school students are asked to select three potential secondary schools to attend when they apply. Every year, the International Student and Admissions office staff and TDSB Planning staff review the list of secondary schools available for international students. Availability is based on space and enrollment capacity. A list of 28 secondary schools available to international students has been established in collaboration with the Planning Department for 2018-19 (see Appendix B).

Selection Process

1. Evaluation of a student's application is based on the submission of the following mandatory documents: application form, copy of passport/birth certificate, recommendation letter from current teacher or principal and most recent two- year transcripts for students applying to Grade 7 or higher. Applications can be submitted online, by email, mail or in person.
2. For secondary school students generally, English language proficiency at the intermediate level or higher along with an academic average of 65% is required for admission to the TDSB as an international student. Successful applicants will then apply for student visa/study permits with the appropriate Canadian Embassies or Consulates.
3. Students are also required to submit custodian documents once they receive a conditional letter of acceptance.
4. All secondary school students are required to complete English Second Language (ESL) and Math assessments before registering at designated schools and selecting courses. These assessments take place at two Reception Centres (Georges Vanier Secondary School and Bickford Centre), typically during the last two weeks of August for September intake and last two

weeks of January for February intake.

Custodianship

The Toronto District School Board does not oversee the custodianship process. Elementary school international student applicants must be accompanied by one parent or living with a custodian. Secondary international student applicants do not require parental accompaniment but require custodial arrangements to be made with a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. External recruiters work with families to make custodial arrangements. The TDSB does not hold custodianship of any international student.

Recruitment Process

The majority of international students come from families who place great value and importance on academic education. These parents generally feel that by placing their children in a school abroad they are giving their children an educational advantage.

Parents often take great care in the selection of the city and school for their child, looking for a place where their child will be safe and supported. More information on the recruitment process can be found in the Toronto International Student Programs brochure. The brochure is available at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/International/docs/TISPBrochure.pdf>

Target Markets

The TDSB is diversifying beyond China as a source country for international students and is building a portfolio of countries where there is an emerging trend to send students abroad for studies. Countries with the fastest growing number of international students as reported by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in 2018 are Vietnam, Iran, Turkey, Brazil, India and Mexico. The following five countries account for the highest percentage of students sent abroad for international enrolment: China, 48.5%, Vietnam, 24.6%, Iran, 10.1%, South Korea, 4%, and Turkey, 2%. We have relied on China for growth in the last few years and most Ontario school boards realize that they need to limit risk exposure by their dependence on just a few markets. Risks develop when institutions rely on limited source countries, and

should incidents occur (health, financial, geopolitical), the flow of international students could slow down significantly.

The engagement strategies may be different when cultivating emerging markets and we need to employ a variety of practices to ensure growth in these markets.

Moving forward, the diversification strategy will involve markets in South America, Mexico, Europe and other countries in Asia (India, Thailand and Iran). For each of these regions, the TDSB is in the process of identifying and promoting long term study and short term programs. Our experience shows that it takes at least three years to cultivate strong recruitment relationships in a new market and to see a return on investment. The Toronto District School Board hopes to continue to have a presence in these emerging markets by attending recruitment fairs and meeting with agents on an annual basis.

The TDSB uses a multifaceted and well-coordinated marketing approach in international student recruitment. Toronto is a very attractive destination for international students and we employ both Direct Marketing Vehicles and Strategic Partnerships to grow its student numbers.

Direct Marketing Vehicles

- Promotional Materials
- Education Fairs – Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFAD), International Consultants for Education Fairs (ICEF)
- Sponsored International Visits
- Familiarization Visits by agents

Strategic Partnerships (overseas)

- Canadian Embassies/Visa Offices
- Agent Agreements
- International Contacts (schools, alumni, etc.)

Supports and Programming for International Student Well-Being

International students are TDSB students. They are entitled to the same supports and services available to students who do not come from abroad.

During the 2017-2018 school year, in collaboration with the Research Department, an online survey and various student focus groups were conducted. The purpose of the survey and focus groups was for the international students to discuss their perceptions and experiences of attending school in the TDSB. The report concluded that there is a need for more social/emotional, inter-cultural and integration support for international students.

As a result, during the 2018-2019 school year, five guidance counsellors for international students (GCIS) and a Centrally Assigned Principal (CAP) were hired to support more than 2300 students in 28 high schools and their feeder schools.

The Centrally Assigned Principal brings experiences and perspectives from both the elementary and secondary school panels to coordinate supports, transitions and programs for international students. The Centrally Assigned Principal worked with the GCIS team to collaborate with school staff and community partners to provide enhance supports for our students. Furthermore, the team provided ongoing support for short term, long term, school programs and teacher professional learning. As a result, service excellence was enhanced for students and staff.

High schools with the largest population of international students will continue to share six English-as-a-Second Language teachers to support language acquisition.

To better support international students and to reduce the need for switching schools, schools that receive international students are asked to offer all levels of ESL (A, B, C, D and E).

Feedback from the international student focus groups identified that our students require additional supports such as networking opportunities for transition, integration and student leadership development. To address these concerns, we have secured a partnership with Across U-Hub to meet some of the needs of our international students by supporting them through excursions, weekend trips and regular activities after school.

Comparison with other Ontario Boards

Toronto District School Board

- Headcount of 2300 international students
- Guardianship and Homestay: Educational agencies and individuals maintain custody of international students.
- 28 high schools receive international students currently. In 2019-2020 this number will increase to 30 high schools.
- The international education department processes all international students, whether they are fee-paying or non-fee paying.

York Region District School Board

- Enrolment of 2000 international students
- Financial contributions to schools: YRDSB contributes \$500 per student, per year to schools that enroll international students.
- Guardianship and Homestay: YRDSB maintains custodial rights to a significant percentage of the international students
- School placement: 21 out of 31 secondary schools are eligible for international students
- The international education department focuses on serving fee paying students. Non-fee paying international students (parents with study/work permits, foreign diplomats) are supported by a different department.

Toronto Catholic District School Board

- Enrolment of 1300 international students
- All elementary and 31 secondary schools are eligible for international students
- Homestay and custodian services are provided through private partners
- Partner schools in China
- The international education department focuses on serving fee paying students. Non-fee paying international students (parents with study/work permits, foreign diplomats) are supported by a different department.

Peel Region District School Board

- Enrolment of 500 international students
- Homestay and custodian services provided through private partners

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

- Enrolment of 1100 international students
- All secondary schools are eligible for international students
- An arms-length division provides all services to international students only

Upper Canada District School Board

- Enrolment of 300 international students
- Homestay and custodian services provided through private partners
- Partner schools in China
- All schools eligible for international students
- Arms-length division serving only international students

Thames Valley District School Board

- Enrolment of 300 students
- Homestay and custodian services provided through private partners
- All schools are eligible for international students

Action Plan and Associated Timeline, Resource Implications and Communications Considerations

We will follow the Board's decision regarding budget in June and will modify our action plans accordingly to reflect resources and communication.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

PR518 - Admission Eligibility Requirements

PR543 - Promotion, Transfer and Retention: Grade 8 to Grade 9

P037 - Equity Policy

P040 - Accountability for Student Achievement

Appendices

- Appendix A: TDSB International Student Enrolment Trend
- Appendix B: TDSB Secondary Schools Accepting International Students for 2018-2019

From

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Appendix A

TDSB International Student Enrolment Trend Data

School Year	Elementary	Secondary	TOTAL
2008-09	201	724	925
2009-10	173	810.5	1250
2010-11	161	924	1085
2011-12	140	1034	1174
2012-13	120	1296	1416
2013-14	170	1364	1534
2014-15	196	1493	1689
2015-16	150	1550	1700
2016-17	272	1643	1915
2017-18	296	1775	2071
2018-19	566	2016	2582
2019-20 (projection)	590	2060	2650

Appendix B

TDSB Secondary Schools Accepting International Students for 2018-2019

School	Total School Enrolment (as of March 31, 2019)	International Student Enrolment
A Y Jackson Secondary School	1069	120
Agincourt Collegiate Institute	1250	22
Albert Campbell Collegiate Institute	1168	101
Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute	859	11
Bloor Collegiate Institute	827	68
Central Technical School	1008	47
Central Toronto Academy	628	105
Don Mills Collegiate Institute	966	74
Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute	975	17
Emery Collegiate Institute	607	32
Etobicoke Collegiate Institute	991	44
George Harvey Collegiate Institute	531	55
George S. Henry Academy	398	14
Jarvis Collegiate Institute	644	46
John Polanyi Collegiate Institute	859	60
L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute	525	86
Martingrove Collegiate Institute	1098	35
Monarch Park Collegiate Institute	835	62
Newtonbrook Secondary School	883	125
Northview Heights Secondary School	1612	131
Silverthorn Collegiate Institute	873	29
Sir John A. MacDonald Collegiate Institute	1116	136
Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute	615	52
Victoria Park Collegiate Institute	1214	83
West Humber Collegiate Institute	1057	35
Western Technical-Commercial School	1034	35
Woburn Collegiate Institute	894	7
York Mills Collegiate Institute	1237	82