



2022-23 Enrolment Projections

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 16 February, 2022

Report No.: 02-22-4251

Strategic Directions

- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Enrolment Projections for 2022-23 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 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, and the net change in enrolment year over year.

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 2020-21	Projected 2021-22	Projected 2022-23
JK/SK	31,557.29	30,566	30,135
Grades 1 to 3	51687.75	49,311	47,320
Grades 4 to 8	84,381.30	81,889	80,312

	Actual 2020-21	Projected 2021-22	Projected 2022-23
Total Elementary	167,626.34	161,766	157,767
Secondary	68,179.62	69,087	68,857
Total Day School	235,805.96	230,853	226,624

Net Change Year-Over-Year Enrolment Analysis

	21-22 vs 20-21	22-23 vs 21-22
JK/SK	-991.29	-431.00
Grades 1 to 3	-2,376.75	-1,991.00
Grades 4 to 8	-2,492.30	-1,577.00
Total Elementary	-5,860.34	-3,999.00
Secondary	907.38	-230.00
Total Day School	-4,952.96	-4,229.00

Elementary Enrolment Projections

Elementary ADE enrolment is projected to experience a decline of 3,999 students next school year.

COVID-19 has impacted elementary school enrolment this year, with a decline of 4,953 students compared with the previous school year. Reasons for the enrolment decline include:

- Families, particularly those with younger children, moving away from the city amid the ongoing pandemic.
- Some parents/guardians continue to keep their 4 and 5-year-old children at home rather than sending them to in-person or virtual instruction (they have this option since their children are not compulsory school age yet).
- Newcomer enrolment has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels due to pandemic related border restrictions.

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 many school boards in Ontario are facing. The TCDSB, as well as neighbouring Peel and York Boards, all had enrolments come in below projection while many smaller Boards further away saw enrolment increases.

When projecting enrolments for next year, the following assumptions were made:

- Retention rates throughout the grades will be higher than the past two pandemic years, but not yet at levels experienced prior to the pandemic.
- Newcomer enrolment will be higher than last year but will not yet return to pre-pandemic levels (reflected through higher retention rates).
- JK enrolment will remain stable. Growth is not expected next year due to the decline in pre-school age population.
- An increase in SK enrolment to account for the JK students that did not enrol this year.

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 (16,590) is projected to be replaced by a smaller incoming JK cohort (14,608), thus contributing to the projected enrolment decline.

Secondary Enrolment Projections

Secondary enrolment is projected to remain stable next year with a slight decrease of 230 students projected.

Compared with the elementary panel, COVID-19 had a lesser impact on secondary school enrolment this year, and enrolment projections next year indicate continued stability in this panel. Reasons for this include larger graduating grade 8 cohorts entering the secondary panel and replacing slightly smaller graduating cohorts. Also, fewer families with secondary age children left the City of Toronto compared to families with pre-school and elementary age children, resulting in better retention through all grades compared to the elementary panel.

System Enrolment Projections

As a system, TDSB enrolment is projected to decrease in 2022-23 by 4,229 students.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Not applicable.

Resource Implications

The Business Services Department uses the enrolment projections in this report to prepare a 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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