

PIAC Trustee Report

5/17/2022

Special Thank you to Trustee Doyle!

Public Consultations- <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>

Transportation of Students Policy (P020)

Purchasing Policy (P017)

Parent and Caregiver Engagement Policy (P023)

Dealing with Abuse and Neglect of Students Policy (P045)

Teacher Hiring Policy (P098)

Flexible Working Arrangements Policy (New Policy)

Communications (New Policy)

Student Interest Programs Policy- <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review/Student-Interest-Programs-Policy>

The Toronto District School Board offers a variety of schools and programs that foster creativity, global connections, real-world context for the provincial curriculum and support the success of students. While these specialized programs have provided opportunities and benefits for some students, barriers to access – including admission processes, entrance criteria and geography – have limited these opportunities for a significant number of students. Through the new Student Interest Programs Policy – previously the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy – **all** students will have equitable access to both local and centralized programs that support their interest and success.

This policy was developed following extensive consultation and feedback from students, parents/guardians, staff, and the broader community, as well as a review of best practices, system data, and TDSB enrollment trends and aligns with the commitments made in TDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, our system-wide efforts and our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. The changes and decisions outlined in the Policy are intended to address the decade-worth of data that consistently shows that not all students have benefited equitably from our specialized programs.

A number of updates to the policy will improve access and remove long-standing barriers, while maintaining high quality education and achievement and student engagement. Admissions will move away from demonstrated strength and/or ability and, instead, will prioritize a student's interest in a particular program or school. A unified and consistent application will be implemented to streamline the process and promote fairness. In order to make all programs more equitably accessible, the number of applications will decrease from two schools/programs to one in the second year of implementation. More than 80% of applicants through Optional Attendance opted for only one choice for Specialized Schools or Programs in 2020.

It must also be emphasized that growing and supporting diverse and engaging local school programs is a Board priority, so that students have access to diverse, high quality courses and learning at their local school and are not solely reliant on acceptance to a specialized program. This is the focus of the Secondary Program Review, which is currently considering the TDSB's secondary school program and how schools provide a more well-rounded complement of course offerings and options where all students have local choice and access. For those who are interested in specialized learning opportunities, the Student Interest Programs Policy will ensure access to programs that support student engagement and success. The Board is committed to continually reviewing policies, procedures and practices to ensure that they promote equity, inclusion and human rights practices and enhance learning opportunities for all students.

Online Learning Graduation Requirement- <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/GradesExamsDiplomas/Getting-your-Diploma/Online-Learning-Requirement>

Opting-Out of the e-Learning Graduation Requirement

Students may withdraw from the online e-Learning requirement. A parent/caregiver/guardian or student (18 years of age or older or 16 or 17 years of age and withdrawn from parental control) may withdraw by submitting the TDSB Opt Out/Withdrawal Form to their school. *No explanation or reason is needed to opt out/withdraw.*

Budget Reminder- <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/Developing-the-2022-2023-Budget>