

The Learning Opportunity Index (LOI) in the TDSB

Research and Development



2024-2025



Welcome

“We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples”

Agenda:

- What is the LOI
- How is the LOI used
- Draft Policy, Process and Feedback

The LOI is a tool that ranks each school based on measures of external challenges affecting student success.

The school with the greatest level of external challenges is ranked number one and is described as highest on the index. It is important to acknowledge that students in all schools have some external challenges, even those schools that are ranked very low on the LOI.

The LOI measures relative need and compares all schools on exactly the same set of data collected in a consistent, reliable, and objective manner.

The LOI removes the subjectivity that may shape perceptions of individual school needs.

Learning Opportunity Index (LOI)

- There are two indices, one for elementary (including junior high schools) and one for secondary.
- Under various names, the Toronto District School Board and its legacy systems have calculated some variation of the index for over fifty years.
- In 2009, after a year-long review and external consultation with stakeholders, the current calculation of the index was recommended by a steering committee consisting of board staff and representatives from the Inner City Advisory Committee.
- In 2019, a methodology review consisting of school board consultations and an indices environmental scan recommended that the current LOI methodology continue to be utilized.
- Under the current methodology, the LOI has been generated in:



Learning Opportunity Index (LOI)

Source: Tax-filer Data from Statistics Canada (families with school-aged children) matched with student postal code

Median Income

- A measurement of income levels, at which half the residents earn more and half of them earn less. This is measured at the level of the student's postal code.

Percentage of Families whose income is below Low Income Measure (before tax)

- Also known as the Low Income Measure. The percentage of families in a student's postal code whose income is at or less than half the median income in the city.

Percentage of Families Receiving Social Assistance

- The proportion of families in a student's postal code whose income comes from government sources.

Learning Opportunity Index (LOI)

Source: Environics Analytics (formerly Federal Census data) at Dissemination Area (DA) level, matched with student postal code
Student Information System (SIS) at student-level for single-parent families

Adults without Secondary Education

- The percentage of people in a student's postal code without a high school diploma.

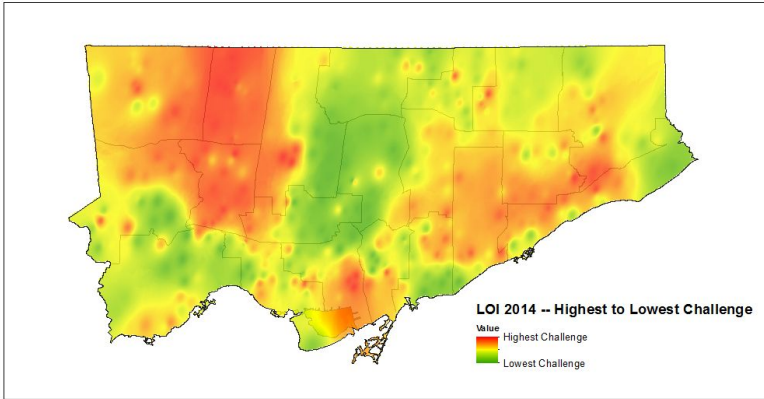
Adults with University Degrees

- The percentage of people in a student's postal code with at least one university degree.

Single-Parent Families

- The proportion of students living with a single parent/guardian (also includes students living with their grandparents or other relatives etc.).

Learning Opportunities Index, 2014

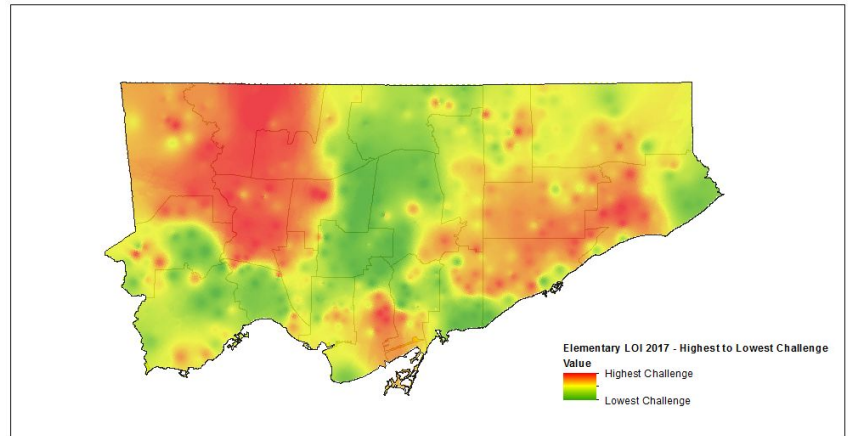


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Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Date: October 2014

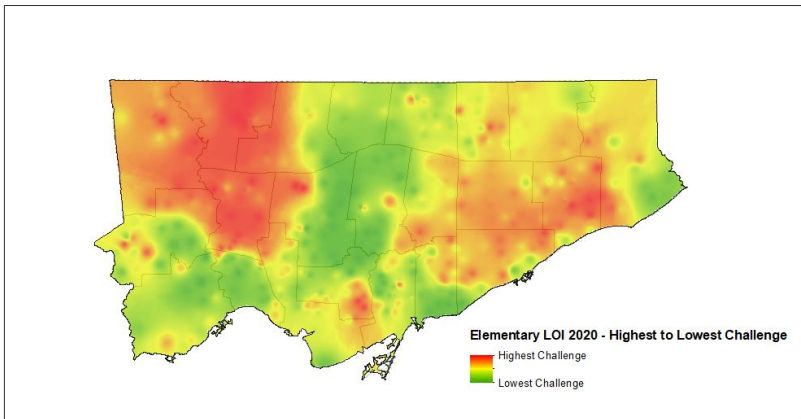
Produced by: Academic, Research and Information Services
Sources: TDSB, ESRI, DMTI

Learning Opportunities Index, 2017



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Learning Opportunities Index, 2020

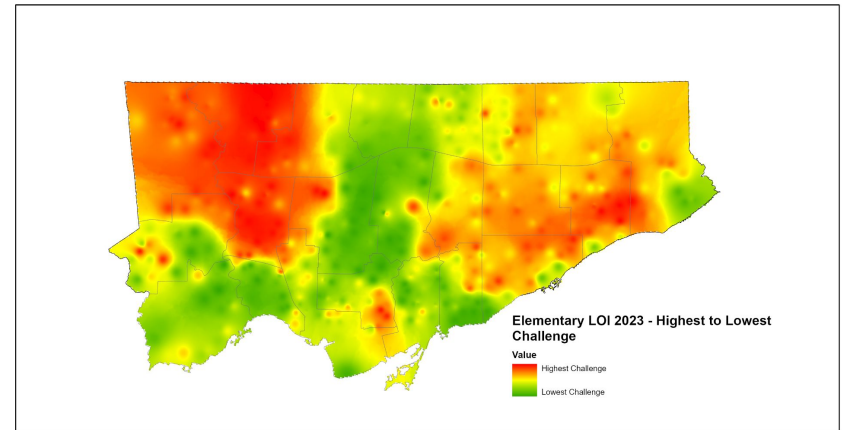


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Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Date: February 2020

Produced by: Research and Development
Sources: TDSB, ESRI, DMTI

Learning Opportunities Index, 2023



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Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Date: March 2023

Produced by: Research and Development
Sources: TDSB, ESRI, DMTI

- The LOI is one of the TDSB's tools in responding to external challenges affecting students. The variables in the LOI have been identified as external factors that impact **educational achievement**.
- The variables that constitute the LOI have been statistically tested against the student success indicators of TDSB students and have been shown to correlate with measures such as the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Primary and Junior assessment results, the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), and credit achievement.
- The LOI does not use any variables of achievement in the calculation, given that the intention of the Index is to examine external socio-economic challenges that affects student achievement.

The majority of resource and program related decisions is based on student enrollment

Examples of where and how LOI is used:

Staff Allocation Office

- LOI is a component of resource allocation (e.g., teachers, office assistants, school administration, school-based safety monitors, lunchroom supervisors, etc.)
 - o Only a small complement of teachers is directly allocated by LOI
- Rank and score are used in the staff allocation formula

Sustainability Office

- LOI is used to distribute resources in an equitable fashion related to:
 - o Resource distribution for EcoSchools Canada
 - o Resource distribution in school ground revitalization projects
- Used more for information and context, but EcoSchools uses LOI in a calculation to provide a score which is then weighted to determine resource allocation

Building and Infrastructure

- School grounds and school interiors based on an equity framework (e.g., these projects are funded from School Condition Improvement grant and School Renewal Allocation).

Examples of where and how LOI is used, cont'd:

E-Learning

- LOI is used for information purposes to see the link between achievement (e.g., EQAO math) and disadvantaged communities
 - o Helps with planning on how e-Learning can be a viable alternative for students experiencing external challenge

Planning

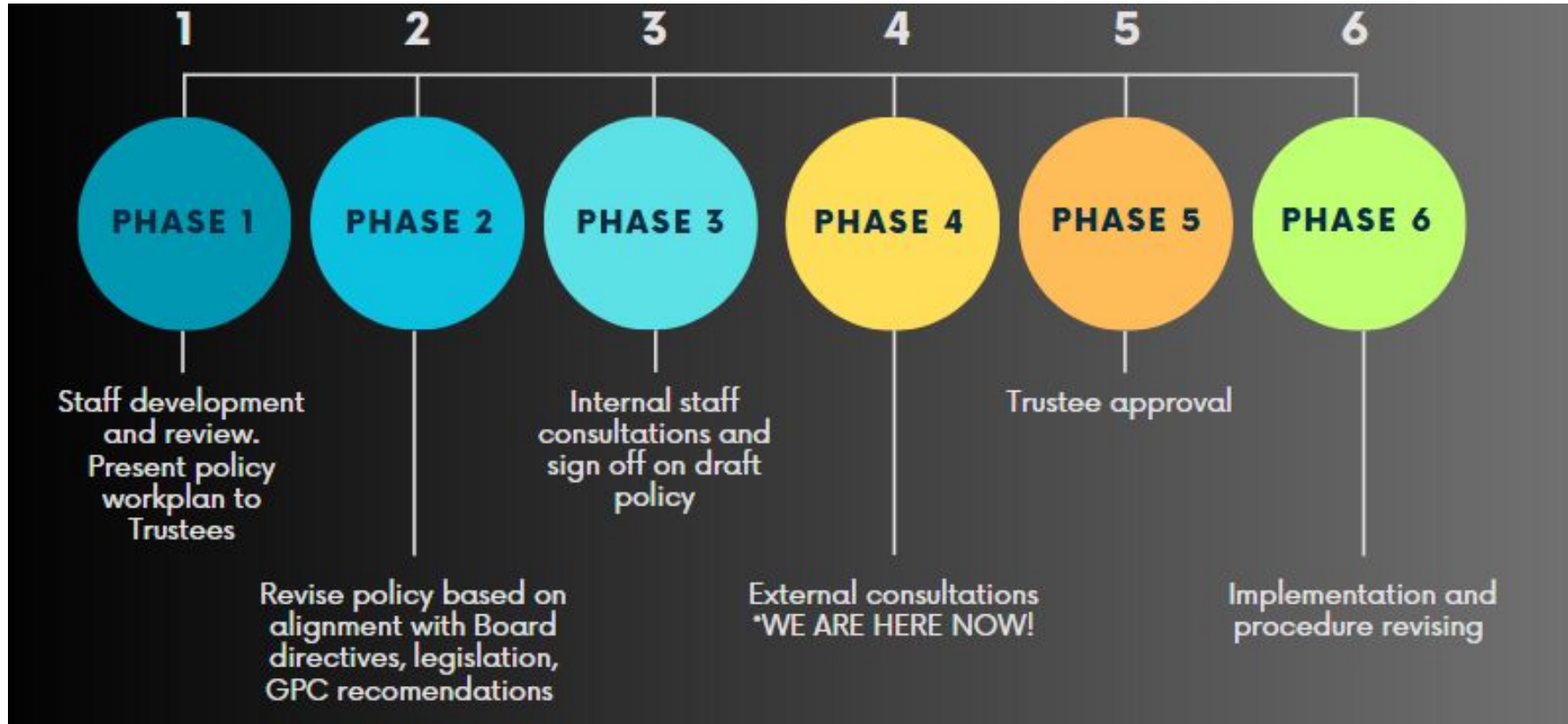
- LOI is used informally and for contextualizing projects
 - o Efficient way of looking at socio-economic status to inform on where to put programs and enrolment

Model Schools

- Model Schools (schools ranked 1-150 on the LOI) are allocated a Community Support Worker and potentially extra staff (e.g., extra teacher)

Examples of when the LOI is not considered in decision making:

- When matters concerning achievement, safety and well-being for all students need to be considered (e.g., the 1:1 device deployment during the pandemic, mobile library unit to schools that may not have libraries nearby)
- Most building and infrastructure repair is based on the Facility Condition Index
- Facility emergencies



General questions and Answers

Policy Specific Comments:

1. Should the TDSB have a tool like the LOI that measures the difference in social economic and/or external challenges challenge?
2. What are other variables that you think are important?
3. Should this tool be a part of decisions around resource allocation to schools (beyond what all schools receive for every student for their education)?
4. Any additional specific feedback on the draft policy?



Next Sessions:

1. March 18 at Central Technical School, 6:30 to 8:30
2. Thursday, March 20 at 5050 (Virtual) at 6:30pm-8:30pm
3. Thursday, April 3 (Hybrid - Virtual and 5050) 6:30-8:30pm

More information:

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