



# Toronto District School Board 2019-2020 Financial Facts at a Glance

## TDSB Schools & Buildings

Elementary: 449  
Secondary: 72  
Alternative Schools: 39  
Special Education Self-Contained Schools: 12  
Other (EdVance, Caring and Safe Schools, Native Learning Centres): 11  
Total Number of Schools: 583

Number of Board Use Buildings  
(including office, warehouse and distribution centres): 14

## Overall Budget

Operating Budget: \$3.39B  
Capital Budget: \$0.36B

## Enrolment

Total Enrolment (Regular Day School): 243,251  
Total Enrolment (Continuing Education): 120,000

## TDSB Staff

Total Teachers, Including Teaching Vice-Principals: 15,527  
Total Early Childhood Educators: 1,092  
Total Principals and Vice-Principals: 899  
Total School Office Clerical: 1,044  
Total Caretakers: 2,132

## 2019-20 Budget

- In 2019, school boards across Ontario faced difficult decisions in balancing their operating budgets because of millions of dollars in funding reductions by the Ontario Ministry of Education.
- At the TDSB, Trustees approved \$67.8 million in reductions to staff and changes to program/service delivery to balance the budget based on approved strategic budget drivers supporting the Board's commitment to equity, and the achievement and well-being of all students.
- The \$67.8 million included a \$42.1 million cut in provincial government funding and a structural budget shortfall of \$25.7 million.
- The operating budget of approximately \$3.4 billion continues to support the TDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.
- **However, the funding provided by the government does not fully meet the needs of students in Toronto.** The table below shows the significant gaps between provincial funding and the actual costs to the TDSB to support the students of Toronto. We continue to advocate for changes to the grants and benchmarks to ensure our staff are fully-funded and our students are not penalized for our urban environment.
- **It is important to understand why the TDSB does not receive enough provincial government funding to fully pay for teacher salaries and benefits. Here is why:**

Historically, even after amalgamation when collective agreements were bargained locally, decisions were made through negotiations about salaries and other working conditions. School boards were able to determine what and how to fully pay for teacher salaries and benefits.

However, some years ago, that collective bargaining process was taken over by the provincial government, known as central bargaining, which resulted in local school boards losing their ability to negotiate salaries and benefits. Whatever the province negotiated with school board employees became what school boards had to pay for, despite the changes to provincial funding that reduced the ability of school boards to pay those full costs.

The TDSB cannot change higher salaries or bargain for something else. The TDSB has lost that local autonomy because bargaining on all funding matters related to funding is bargained centrally.

Funding Gap School Based		Provincial funding	TDSB Actual	Total Funding Gap	% Gap
Elementary Teachers (per person)	Page 18	100,150	104,557	(55,224,117)	23.2%
Secondary Teachers (per person)	Page 19	101,646	108,804	(36,398,430)	15.3%
Early Childhood Educators (per person)	Page 21	53,622	74,365	(9,229,733)	3.9%
Principals and Vice-Principals	Page 22	115,326,142	131,209,372	(15,883,230)	6.7%
School Office Support	Page 22	60,682,646	70,433,428	(9,750,782)	4.1%
School Budget Expenditures	Page 23	48,605,207	53,797,547	(5,192,340)	2.2%
Supply Staff	Page 20	51,494,782	103,551,084	(52,056,302)	21.8%
Special Education (Note1)	Page 24	345,797,458	400,397,095	(54,599,637)	22.9%
<b>Total School Based Gap</b>				<b>(238,334,571)</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Funding Gap Central Support		Provincial funding	TDSB Actual	Total Funding Gap	% Gap
Transportation	Page 28	63,390,051	66,653,365	(3,263,314)	6.8%
Administration and Governance	Page 29	57,500,162	55,397,883	2,102,279	-4.4%
Information Technology (Note 2)	Page 30	13,263,129	60,150,004	(46,886,875)	97.6%
<b>Total Central Gap</b>				<b>(48,047,910)</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>GRAND total Funding Gap</b>				<b>(286,382,481)</b>	

Note 1: The Elementary and Secondary teacher funding gaps above do not include Special Education teachers. The funding gap for Special Education includes the Special Education teacher Salary and Benefit gap of approximately \$10.5M

Note 2: Provincial funding is based on identified IT Ministry benchmarks. However, it is understood that other funding allocations which do not explicitly identify an IT benchmark can be used to support IT expenditures such as classroom supplies.

## Collective Agreement Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding Gap

Another example of a historic Ministry of Education underfunding is the gap between the TDSB's collective agreement with elementary teachers, which provides for a Grades 4-8 pupil-teacher ratio of 23.24:1. Some other Ontario school boards also have this pupil-teacher ratio in their collective agreements. However, the Ministry funds these grades at 24.5:1. At the same time, the Ministry expects school boards to adhere to their collective agreements. This underfunding gap leaves the TDSB with a budget shortfall in provincial funding of approximately \$20 million per year (this funding shortfall is reflected in the elementary teachers' salary gap in the chart above).

## Renewal Funding Backlog

- The TDSB's current repair backlog is \$3.8 billion as a result of years of inadequate provincial funding.
- Funding improvements have been made in recent years, allowing the TDSB to address emergency issues in schools. Unfortunately, the additional funding has not been enough to decrease the TDSB's repair backlog.
- If this additional funding is discontinued and/or reduced, it is estimated that the TDSB's repair backlog will grow by approximately \$0.6 billion per year.
- The government of Ontario must commit to providing predictable and sustainable funding for school repairs so that the TDSB can continue to implement the long-term plan for renewal, lower our current \$3.8 billion repair backlog and modernize our schools.

## Education Development Charges

- The TDSB continues to advocate for access to Education Development Charges (EDCs). EDCs provide school boards with funds to purchase school sites and cover all related site preparation and development costs that result from growth.
- While other school boards in Ontario are allowed to collect EDCs, the TDSB does not qualify because it has excess capacity when assessed on a district-wide basis, regardless of significant capacity pressures and challenges faced in many neighborhood schools.
- Many of our schools are over capacity as a result of significant residential intensification in certain areas. EDCs are a critical funding tool that would help the TDSB meet growth-related infrastructure needs.
- For all school boards, including the TDSB, it is vitally important to assess and plan for long-term student accommodation on the basis of neighbourhood needs, not on a jurisdiction-wide basis.
- Without this restriction, the TDSB would generate revenue to help meet growth-related infrastructure needs. Over the next 15 years, for example, it is estimated that the TDSB would qualify for \$400-million in EDCs.
- In addition to advocating for access to EDCs, the TDSB also requests changes in terms of how EDCs can be spent. If the TDSB had flexibility, some of the funds could go toward the \$3.8 billion repair backlog.
- In May 2019, the Ontario government introduced Bill 108 More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019. The Bill introduced significant amendments to the EDC section of the Education Act. However, the proposed changes did not benefit school boards like the TDSB that still do not qualify for EDCs.