

Trustee Update

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Toronto District School Board

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Wash Hands.
Physically Distance.
Wear a Mask.
Save Lives.

Please wash your hands. Keep physical distance. Wear a mask. Save lives. Stay safe and protect each other.

Please continue to #DoYourPart to reduce the spread of #COVID19 & keep everyone in our city SAFE. This means practising #PhysicalDistancing, washing your hands often, wearing a mask in indoor public settings & staying home when you are sick, even with mild symptoms.

Other Important Links:

canada.ca/coronavirus

ontario.ca/coronavirus

Thank You for Your Patience

As you know, last-minute changes and directions by the province over the last number of weeks have resulted in changes to TDSB documents. I tried to capture the changes in last week's [update](#). Thank you for your patience, as we move closer to re-opening. We are continually updating the TDSB [website](#) with the latest information and will continue to send out system direct messaging. In addition, you may have already heard from your local school Principal. This week all staff who are able, returned to schools - 3 days of professional learning (PL) run from September 1-3. The Ministry determined the following topics were to be covered: a full day on Health and Safety Protocols in Response to COVID-19; Student Mental Health, Well-Being and Anti-Bullying; Remote and Online Learning Strategies and Tools and an Introduction to Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Training. In addition, there will be professional learning on the New Elementary Math Curriculum. (Many school boards requested this curriculum be put on hold due to COVID-19, but to no avail).



By now schools will be receiving lists of families who will be returning in-person and those who will be learning remotely. Schedules and class configurations will be determined in the week ahead. We know that school will look quite different as a result of continued efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

As we prepare, we keep advocating - please see two recent letters from Chair Alexander Brown on behalf of the Board and an opinion piece by Cathy Abraham, President of the Ontario School Board Association.

- [More Nurses to Support Schools](#)
- [Further Covid-19 Supports Needed](#)
- [It's time to properly invest in public education](#)

Registration Results: Ward 15

Click on the links below to read the elementary and secondary school registration reports for Ward 15. The reports provide the 'In School', 'Virtual School', and 'No Response' count and percentage for elementary and secondary students in each of the schools in Ward 15. This information will continue to change as schools reach out to families that have not responded yet.

[Elementary Students - Registration Results: Ward 15-Toronto - Danforth](#)

[Secondary Students - Registration Results: Ward 15-Toronto - Danforth](#)



Returning to School

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School>.

Key Information

As we prepare to open our schools in September and welcome back students and staff, we are doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of all school community members, while also providing the best academic experience possible for students, supporting mental health and well-being and considering the needs of families and staff.

The Ministry of Education has approved the TDSB's plans for reopening schools September

2020:

Elementary students (including those in Special Education, French Immersion and Extended French programs) will return to school five days per week with one cohort for the full day and with enhanced health and safety measures in place, including smaller class sizes to help maximize physical distancing.

Secondary students will have in-class learning on alternate days and synchronous (live, online learning) as well as asynchronous (independent work) daily with enhanced health measures in place including smaller class sizes to help maximize physical distancing.

Students who choose not to attend school in person will be able to participate in remote learning (**Virtual School**).

- [Elementary Virtual Learning](#)
- [Secondary Virtual Learning](#)

Click [here](#) for information on **Adult** programming

Registration - If you did not receive an email or phone call to register by September 3, please contact your school to inform them of your child's first and last name and confirm your registration for either in-school or virtual learning for September

Questions and Answers - We've posted our [Q and A section](#) on our return to school page. We will definitely be adding to it in the days and weeks ahead.

Ventilation - One of the most common questions is about ventilation in our buildings. The TDSB has been working over the summer to review ventilation and filtration systems and to improve ventilation and increase the volume of fresh air to the maximum extent possible. Some of this work includes ensuring clean filters are installed and increasing the number of times they are changed and inspected during the year, and running systems prior to the start of the day to flush the building with fresh air. As you know, some of our buildings are quite old and may not have mechanical ventilation. In those cases, we will be ensuring that windows are opened to provide fresh outdoor air and will support schools and sites where there may be unique circumstances that need to be addressed. Recently, both the provincial and federal governments announced additional ventilation-related funding. Please know that we're working hard to confirm how much of this money can be spent prior to the start of the school year. While some improvements will be possible, given the planning, design

and construction involved, any large- scale projects will require months to complete.

Managing COVID-19 in a School - Last week, the province released the recommended process for school boards to follow in the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school. As per this guidance document, the TDSB takes its lead from Toronto Public Health, which is responsible for determining if an outbreak exists, declaring an outbreak, and providing direction on outbreak control measures to be implemented. It's important to note that even if cases may be declared in a school, Toronto Public Health will assist in determining which cohort(s) may be sent home or if a partial or full school closure is required based on the scope of the outbreak. For more information on this and other safety measures, please see <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Health-and-Safety>

School Re-opening Health and Safety Consideration Checklist



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE	
Promote self-assessment for symptoms by staff/students before leaving home	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screen staff and students before entry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider staggered entry and exit times	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish parent pick up and drop off protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit visitors to schools	<input type="checkbox"/>

HYGIENE PRACTICES	
Build in handwashing breaks throughout the day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage and teach proper respiratory etiquette (cough and sneeze in your sleeve)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide alcohol-based sanitizer throughout the school and at entry points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimize the sharing of items	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean shared items between use	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote the appropriate use of PPE (e.g. masks and face shields)	<input type="checkbox"/>

MOVING THROUGH SCHOOL	
Provide visual cues throughout school to reinforce physical distancing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Determine traffic flow in hallways and on stairs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage one way travel where possible	<input type="checkbox"/>
Set capacity limits for washrooms, elevators and common spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide signage to reinforce health and safety protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider use of barriers to ensure physical distancing	<input type="checkbox"/>

FACILITIES	
Perform routine cleaning of general facilities throughout the day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean high touch surfaces twice per day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjust mechanical/HVAC system to increase fresh air	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open windows to increase natural ventilation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure washroom and handwashing fixtures are operational	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure drinking fountains are used only to refill water bottles	<input type="checkbox"/>

PHYSICAL DISTANCING	
Support cohorting of students	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organize classrooms to maximize space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use any surplus space for instructional purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Avoid assemblies, staff meetings and group gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider virtual meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide visual cues to reinforce physical distancing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure students wear face coverings/masks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure staff wear masks, and face shields as required	<input type="checkbox"/>

TRANSPORTATION	
Promote face coverings or masks for all passengers and driver	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on cleaning of high touch surfaces	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perform routine cleaning between runs	<input type="checkbox"/>

EATING AND DRINKING	
Close cafeterias and kitchenettes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide only pre-packaged food and single-use utensils	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure lunch is eaten in classrooms and garbage is taken home	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure food and drinks are not shared	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES	
Encourage anyone with symptoms to get tested	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isolate students who show symptoms at school in the Wellness Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disinfect Wellness Room after use	<input type="checkbox"/>
Send staff who show symptoms at school home	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follow notification protocols in event of confirmed case of COVID-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Track student and staff absenteeism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support Toronto Public Health in contact tracing	<input type="checkbox"/>

www.tdsb.on.ca/returntoschool

Federal Support for Return to School

Information from OPSBA

On Wednesday, August 26, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced up to \$2 billion in support for provinces and territories through the *Safe Return to Class Fund*. The federal government left it to the provinces to determine how to use the money, however some examples they provided included

investing and supporting adapted learning spaces, improved air ventilation, increased hand sanitation and hygiene, and purchases of personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. The Prime Minister also announced an additional \$112 million in funding for First Nations to support community measures to ensure a safe return to school on reserves.

The provincial government responded, with [Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Education Stephen Lecce](#) announcing that \$381 million would be flowing to the province this fall, with the rest likely coming later this school year, pending federal approvals in December. The provincial government is allocating the funding in the following areas (Please note amount for TDSB specific is added):

Reopening Plan Implementation - \$200 million - TDSB \$10M for Emerging Issues and \$6.5M for Teachers

- \$100 million to complement the health and safety components of school reopening plans, in consultation with local public health units, including the hiring of custodians, HVAC, improvements, internet connectivity for students and other local needs. - TDSB share \$10,059,269
- \$30 million to support additional PPE for schools.
- \$70 million for the temporary hiring of educators as required - TDSB share \$6,470,512

Student Transportation - \$70 million - TDSB \$1.5M

- \$44.5 million in support of the Driver Retention Program (DRP).
- \$25.5 million for route protection and to help reduce the number of students on buses - TDSB share 1,534,748

Special Education and Mental Health Supports Enhancement - \$12.5 million - TDSB \$.7M

- Will allow boards to hire and train additional staff and provide more mental health supports for students.

Additional Public Health Nurses - \$12.5 million

- Supports up to 125 additional nursing positions in public health units across the province to help schools manage potential COVID-19 cases.

Remote Learning - \$36 million - TDSB \$3.7M

- Will help ensure that every school board offering virtual learning has a dedicated principal and administrative support for both its secondary and elementary virtual schools - TDSB share \$3,712,878.

The province is also setting aside \$50 million for any future pandemic learning needs.

Click here for [Memo B14 Additional Funding for School Reopening](#). Revised Memo for [B14 Appendix A that lists the funding per board](#).

Please Note - Senior Staff are continuing to analyze this funding to ensure that we are allocating it in the best way possible to enhance our plans for such items as smaller class sizes, more caretakers, additional cleaning for schools and school buses and additional technology to support student learning. This will take a bit more time, but we will share more details as soon as possible.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY



Indigenous and Black History and Culture: Resources for Learning

Indigenous and Black history and culture should not only be celebrated on designated days. We need to be working with our kids in and out of school to learn and celebrate these communities and their many stories, achievements and struggles all year long. That's why I'm sharing this list of resources shared with me by a

constituent who works for Historica Canada. Historica is a TDSB partner organization. For more information please contact MGoldberg-Poch@historicacanada.ca , Education Manager at Historica.

[Historica Canada Resources](#)

Water Bottle Filling Stations

Some good news. At the August 26 Board meeting, staff updated Trustees on a plan to accelerate our current program to install at least one water bottle filling station at every school. In addition, staff are working on a system standard for the number of filling stations based on student population.



Resources for Preparing for Back to School

Returning to school after so many months away may be a challenging and scary experience. To help get all students and families ready for September, we have put together some resources to help with the transition.

TDSB Online Conversations

TDSB's Parent and Community Engagement Office and the [Parent Involvement Advisory Committee](#) are hosting a series of engaging and informative online conversations. Hear from leading experts and participate in question and answer sessions. Following the sessions, recordings are posted online.

- [Restore Calm](#)
- [Safe Reopening of Schools](#)
- [Fathering/Grandfathering/Caregiving in a Heightened Racialized Environment](#)
- [Talking Teens: Getting Them Out of Bed and Ready for School,](#)
- [Healing from Racialized Trauma](#)
- [Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being during the Transition Back to Learning](#)

Mental Health and Well-Being Videos

Learning opportunities for Parents and Caregivers developed by the TDSB Professional Support

Services Team:

- [Ways to Help your Children Cope with Worry](#) (4 videos)
- [Tips and Tricks for Parents & Caregivers to Help Children Return to School](#) (5 videos)
- [Help for Families of Children with Special Needs](#) (7 videos)
- [Helping your child develop language to understand and express their feelings and emotions](#) (3 videos)
- [Using Visuals to Help your Child Communicate More Effectively](#) (5 videos)
- [Be Well - Art and Music Activities](#) (2 videos)
- [Helping Your Child Manage Big Emotions](#) (3 videos)
- [Miscellaneous Well-Being Webinars](#) (single episodes)

From [School Mental Health Assist.](#) experts share their tips

[Back to School Checklist from Kids Help Phone](#)

COVID-19 Hygiene - Videos for Kids

- [Reduce the Spread of COVID-19: Hygiene for Kids](#) (Government of Canada)
- [Hand-Washing Heroes](#) (Government of Canada)

Mask Information Videos - Toronto Public Health

- [Proper Use of a Cloth Face Mask](#)
 - [5 Things to Remember About Face Masks and Coverings](#)
 - [Choosing the Right Face Mask or Covering](#)
-

TDSB Staggered Start Dates - Elementary

Date	K-5	K-6	K-8	6-7-8	7-8
Mon. Sept. 14 th					
Tues. Sept. 15 th	SK, Gr. 5, All ISP classes	SK, Gr. 6, All ISP classes	SK, Gr. 4, 8 All ISP classes	6, All ISP classes	7, All ISP classes
Wed. Sept. 16 th	JK, Gr. 1, 4	JK, Gr. 1, 5	JK, Gr. 1, 7	7	8
Thurs. Sept. 17 th	Gr 2, 3	Gr. 2, 3, 4	Gr. 2, 3, 5, 6	8	
Fri. Sept. 18 th					

- Once students start, they continue to come to school every day
- In the event where a school has one or more combined classes (grades), a local decision can be made to have both grades start on the same day (with SO approval)
- This model allows for all students/parents/staff to see 2 full days of whole school routines by the end of the week
- All ISP classes will begin Tuesday, September 15th
- This model provides the best opportunity to maximize physical distancing since students in different divisions occupy different spaces within the building
- All staff will be present starting the first day
- In the limited number of cases where classes will be relocated to a non-TDSB site, the first day may be adjusted and transportation will not be immediate.

School Year Calendar 2020-2021

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1 to June 30, inclusive and has now been approved by the Ministry.

- First day of classes for all students is **September 15 - Elementary entry will be staggered from the 15-17 - For secondary, either Tuesday September 15 or Wednesday September 16 based on the cohort assignment.**
- The last day of class for elementary students is June 29
- The last day of class for secondary (full year) students is June 25
- The last day of class for secondary (semestered) students is June 28

PA Days & Holidays

Board-wide PA Day	September 1, 2020
Board-wide PA Day	September 2, 2020
Board-wide PA Day	September 3, 2020

Labour Day	September 7, 2020
Thanksgiving	October 12, 2020
Board-wide PA Day	November 20, 2020
Winter Break	Dec 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021
Elementary PA Day	January 15, 2021
Secondary PA Day (Semestered Schools Only)	February 2, 2021
Board-wide PA Day	February 12, 2021
Family Day	February 15, 2021
March Break	March 15 – 19, 2021
Good Friday	April 2, 2021
Easter Monday	April 5, 2021
Victoria Day	May 24, 2021
Elementary School PA Day	June 4, 2021
Secondary School PA Day (Full Year Schools)	June 28, 2021
Secondary School PA Day	June 29, 2021



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