



School Re-Opening Plans Update

2020 08 21

Dear Friends,

At the Special Board meeting yesterday, Trustees passed the latest back to school plans with a few changes made to both the elementary and secondary learning models. This latest change is a result of the provincial government rejecting the smaller class size and/or a shortened day proposed by the TDSB. We are disappointed that the Ministry of Education did not provide funds to cover the full cost of extra teachers.

In response to the voices of the parents and to the recommendations of Toronto Public Health, we went into deficit spending and use the Reserves to hire an additional 366 teachers. Together with the redeployment of 400 central teachers from other functions, the TDSB would lower class size to help improve student and staff safety, with most of the focus on the needs of students in hard-hit area schools.

Read the full presentation of the plans here:

<https://pub-tdsb.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=6364>

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST PLANS

Student Registration

Starting Tuesday, August 25th, parents will receive emails confirming whether their children will attend school in person or choose remote learning. Registration closes on August 29th. For those who we don't have access to emails, automated phone calls will be made or be contacted by the school. It's very important that parents state their intentions so that their schools can plan their specific operations.

School Start Date

September 15, 2020, with possibilities of some schools starting in a staggered manner within 3 day after September 15th.

Face covering

Mandatory mask/face coverings for all students (JK – Gr 12), staff and visitors.

Transportation

For the first week of school, bussing will only be available to students with special education needs. Bussing for other students will start the following week.

Students with special education needs will continue to receive additional support identified in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). For more information: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Statutory-Advisory-Committees/Special-Education-Advisory-Committee> and click on the powerpoint presentation of August 17th.

Elementary Schools (JK – Gr. 8)

In-School Learning

- Full day schedule, 5 days a week
- Students stay in the same class/group of students with one teacher (and one DECE in kindergarten)
- Recess, lunch, hand-washing and bathroom breaks will be staggered to support cohorting
- Specialized teachers, like French teachers, will still be able to go into classrooms to provide the full breadth of programming for students.

Charts below outline the expected students per class as of August 20th, 2020. Based on most updated return-to-school numbers and the new high priority schools from Toronto Public Health, staff will recalculate the caps and class averages.

Class Size caps	JK/SK	Gr 1 - 3	Gr 4 - 8
Remote Learning	29	20	35
Schools in High Risk Areas	15	20	20
Schools in Low Risk Areas	26	20	27

Class Size Averages	Regular Program			French Immersion			Extended French	Gifted Program
	JK/SK	Gr 1 - 3	Gr 4 - 8	JK/SK	Gr 1 - 3	Gr 4 - 8	Gr 4 - 8	Gr 4 - 8
Remote Learning	28.9	20	34.9	28.5	19.8	34.7	34.8	25
Schools in High Risk Areas	13.3	18.1	18.3	11.9	18.2	17.5	17	18.3
Schools in Low Risk Areas	21.6	18.1	24.1	20.2	18	23.5	22.1	21.6
(High Risk Areas are determined by Toronto Public Health)								

Fully Remote Learning (Virtual School)

While students will begin the school year on a daily, in-class schedule, we need to be prepared to pivot if public health guidance requires a change in operation. Some students may also opt to not return to school and continue their learning at home. The guidelines below outline Remote Learning in the TDSB for elementary students.

- Daily attendance will be taken
- 300 Minutes of learning opportunities (synchronous and asynchronous)
- Large Group Instruction 40-50% of the day (dependent on grade level)
- Programming is based on the Overall Expectations of the Ontario Curriculum and Kindergarten Program

- Instruction will be delivered by more than one educator (i.e., remote cohort homeroom teacher, DECE for Kindergarten where applicable, and prep subjects)

Expectations by Grade

Kindergarten

- Whole Group Instruction: two/three sessions per day for short periods of time
- Guided Instruction (Synchronous) & Independent Play/work: two sessions per day
- Synchronous Check & Connect: three sessions per day

Grades 1 – 3

- Whole Group Instruction: four sessions per day
- Guided Instruction (Synchronous) & Independent Work: two sessions per day
- Synchronous Check & Connect: two sessions per day

Grades 4 – 8

- Whole Group Instruction: four sessions per day
- Guided Instruction (Synchronous) & Independent Work: three sessions per day
- Synchronous Check & Connect: one session per day

Secondary Schools

All models in secondary use a quadmester calendar as outlined below. Quadmesters allow students to focus on two courses and reduces potential contact between students in support of health and safety protocols.

Quad 1: Sep 15 - Nov 11

Quad 2: Nov 12 - Feb 1

Quad 3: Feb 3 - Apr 21

Quad 4: Apr 22 - Jun 28

Secondary In School Learning

Students will have in-class learning on alternate days and synchronous as well as learning-at-home/asynchronous learning daily. The schedule will follow a 4 day cycle and repeat itself on the 5th day. Class size will be capped at 15 students per class.

In School Learning	Cohort A				Cohort B
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	
8:45am to 12:30PM	Course 1 In Person @ School	Course 1 Independent Learning @ Home	Course 2 In Person @ School	Course 2 Independent Learning @ Home	Cohort B will follow the same schedule as Cohort A on alternating days
12:31PM to 1:59PM	Student Dismissal (return home / lunch) Provide extra help to students Contact Parents Professionally Managed Activities for Teachers				
2:00PM to 3:15PM	Course 2 Live Virtual Learning		Course 2 Live Virtual Learning		

Secondary Remote Learning (Virtual School)

Students will have a daily schedule as outlined below. Daily attendance will be taken. A minimum of 90 minutes/course/day must be synchronous through BrightSpace or Google Classroom.

- Course 1: 9:00AM to 11:30AM
- Course 2: 12:30PM to 3:00PM.

Teachers will use BrightSpace or Google Classroom for course shells and content. Central staff (hybrids, K-12 coaches, subject-specific coaches, math coaches) will work collaboratively with classroom teachers to co-design curriculum.

