

Applying to TDSB MST and International Baccalaureate Specialized Programs



November 20, 2025

7:00-8:30 PM

Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

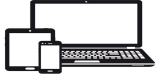
We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe (A NISH NA BEE), the Haudenosaunee (HOE DENA SHOW NEE) Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

Reconnaissance des Terres Traditionnelles

Nous reconnaissons que nous sommes accueillis sur les terres des Mississaugas des Anichinabés (A NISH NA BEY), de la Confédération Haudenosaunee (HOE DENA SHOW NE) et du Wendat. Nous voulons également reconnaître la pérennité de la présence des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuit.



How to Participate



Click **Q&A** at the top of screen; then type your c in the window.

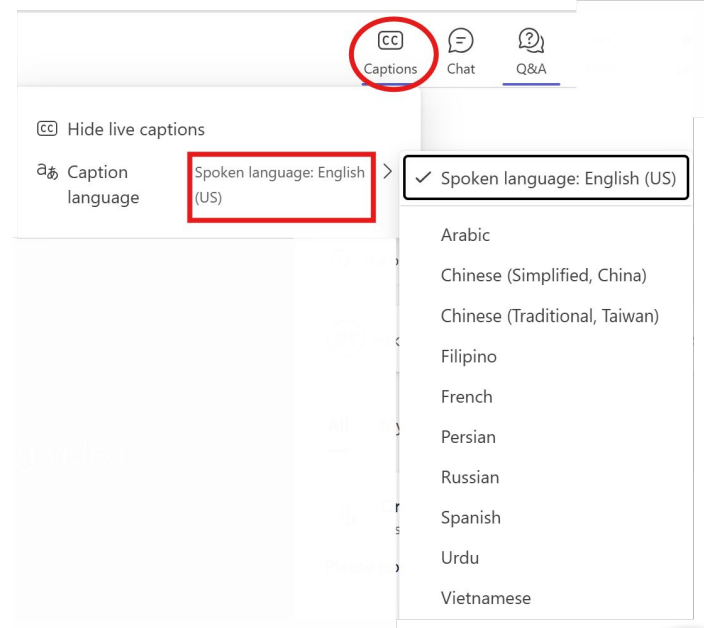


Some questions may be answered directly in the Q & A.

This meeting is being recorded.

LIVE

Closed Captions are available in English and in other languages.



Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Norms
- Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territories
- How to Apply for a Math, Science and Technology or International Baccalaureate Specialized Program
- Demonstrations of Knowledge and Skills
- The Selection and Admissions Process, Timelines
- Helpful Tips to Prepare
- Questions and Answers, Posting of Q and A after the meeting

Introductions

Louise Sirisko - Associate Director of Student Learning and Equitable Outcomes

Diana Panagiotopoulos - Executive Superintendent

Central Program Admissions Office

Amalia Pallas - Senior Manager

Reiko Fuentes - Centrally Assigned Principal

Afroditi Andreopoulos - Administrative Assistant

Anna Catalano - Administrative Liaison

Central Staff

Margaret Greenberg - Math, Science, STEM & Robotics

Linda Edwards - e-Learning and Virtual Learning

Patricia Davies - e-Learning

Peter Gazzellone - Continuing Education

Guidance, Career Development & Student Well-Being

Allan Easton - Centrally Assigned Principal

Snezana Bacanin - Coordinator of Guidance

Ronnie Lebi - IT and Tech Support

Communications & Public Affairs

Ryan Bird - Executive Officer

Stacey Lewis - Manager, Strategic Communication

Important Information

- Before submitting any application, students and parents/guardians and caregivers are encouraged to attend all relevant Open Houses to learn more about the programs.
- If you require support with your application or don't have access to the necessary technology please contact your child's current school for support.
- If a student opts to not continue in a program, they must return to their designated school by address.
- Transportation is the responsibility of the applicant. Before applying to a school, please visit the school via public transportation
- All TDSB Specialized Programs are in person.

Navigating the TDSB Website



Toronto District School Board

[New to Canada](#) | [Policies](#)
[About Us](#) | [Staff](#) | [Employment](#)

ENHANCED BY Google



Translate

EARLY YEARS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

ADULT LEARNERS

PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

COMMUNITY

The Backpack & School Supplies Drive

This school year, contribute to a student's confidence, preparedness and sense of belonging with a backpack of supplies.

MAKE A DONATION



School Year
Calendar



Student
Transportation



Find Your School



Transcripts &
Student Records



Continuing
Education



Mental Health &
Well-Being

Find Your School

Find your...

▼ **School**

By Home Address

► By School Name

► Out-of-Area Admissions

Elementary Programs

Secondary Programs

Alternative Schools

e-Learning Programs

French Programs

Special Education and Inclusion
Programs

► Registration

PDF Map

Find Your School

Find your designated school by entering your address, see school contact details and find out who your principal, vice-principal, superintendent and trustee are. Also explore other educational opportunities through the TDSB.



By Home Address

Fill in your address in the search
box



By School Name

Browse by alphabetical school
listing



Central Program Admissions Office

The Central Program Admissions Office coordinates and facilitates the application and enrollment processes for TDSB Central Programs listed below.



Specialized Programs

The TDSB offers Specialized Programs that are focused on the Arts, Math, Science & Technology, Leadership and more! All students meeting the eligibility requirements with an interest in the program focus are invited to apply.



Out-of-Area Admissions

Applying to attend a school other than your designated school by address

Specialized Programs Website

tdsb.on.ca/specializedprograms

TDSB Secondary Specialized Programs:

- Arts
- **International Baccalaureate**
- Leadership Pathway
- **Math, Science and Technology**

tdsb | Central Program
Admissions Office

Central Program Admissions Office

▼ Specialized Programs

Elementary Specialized Arts
Programs

Application and Admissions

Academic Achievement and
Demonstration of Knowledge and
Skills

Addressing Vacant Seats

Arts

International Baccalaureate

Leadership

Math, Science and Technology

Applicant Eligibility Benchmark
Calculator

Additional Resources

Specialized Programs

The TDSB offers Specialized Programs that are focused on the Arts, Math, Science & Technology, Leadership and more! All students meeting the eligibility requirements with an interest in the program focus are invited to apply. Please note that the application and admissions process has changed. Visit the [Applications and Admissions website](#) for more information.



The application for September 2026 will be open from **Monday, November 24 to Friday, December 12, 2025 at noon.**

Learn more about each of the programs:

- [Arts](#)
- [International Baccalaureate](#)
- [Leadership](#)
- [Math, Science and Technology](#)

Please note that transportation is not provided for any Specialized Program.

November 2025						
SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Nov 1
2	3 • 6pm Etobicoke Schi	4 • 4pm **NEW TIME** • 6pm **NEW TIME** W 3 more	5 • 5pm Danforth CTI C • 6pm Rosedale Heig 3 more	6 • 6pm Central Techni • 6pm Marc Garneau 2 more	7	8
9	10 • 6:30pm Claude Wat • 7pm John Polanyi C • 7pm Parkdale CI Op	11 • 5pm Ursula Franklin • 6pm Sir Wilfrid Laur • 6pm Don Mills CI Op	12 • 6pm SATC @ W.A. • 6pm Bloor CI Open 4 more	13	14	15

Additional Resources Website

Application Timeline -
September 2026



[Application Guide](#)



Specialized Programs Q&A



Specialized Programs: Turning
Photos and Documents into
PDFs



Specialized Programs: Sharing
Video Files



Video Resources



Overview of TDSB Specialized Programs

F  2:5



Overview of TDSB Specialized Programs



Applicant Eligibility

Applicants are eligible to apply for Specialized Programs if, at the time of application, they:

- meet the age, residency, and citizenship or eligible immigration status requirements to attend a TDSB school as set out in the Admission Eligibility Requirements (PR518); **or**
- are currently registered at a TDSB school.

All applicants must be available to attend an in-person demonstration of knowledge and skills if applying to IB, MST or Leadership programs.

All applicants must meet the report card benchmark in order to be eligible.

Report Card Benchmark

Secondary Program Eligibility

In order to be an eligible applicant, the following Grade 7 or Grade 8 report card marks will be reviewed and no more than 2 can fall below the Provincial Standard (70%):

Language

History

Math

French (average of 4 strands)

Science and Technology

Art (average of 4 strands)

Geography

Physical and Health Education
(average of 2 strands)

Applying to TDSB Specialized Programs

Each applicant may select ONE program type for their application

Applicants list their primary program school. Where applicable, applicants may opt to include an alternate program school.

The alternate program school
MUST be of the **SAME** program
type.

Program Choice required [i](#)

Math Science and Technology

Primary School Choice required [i](#)

Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute (grades 9 - 10)

Alternate School Choice - Optional [i](#)

Jarvis Collegiate Institute (grades 9 - 10)

Applying to TDSB Specialized Programs

Alternate choices will only be considered after all primary applications for that program from the city of Toronto have been considered.

If an applicant is accepted to their primary choice school, they will not be considered for their alternate choice.

If an applicant is offered a spot in their alternate choice, they will remain on the waitlist for their primary choice.

What you need to apply

- Student Legal Name, Date of Birth and gender
- Primary Home Address (the address where you currently reside)
- Current School and Grade, and Student Number (TDSB students only)
- Primary Program/school of choice and alternate choice (if applicable)
- Contact information of the parent/legal guardian/caregiver

What you need to apply

- Applicants to secondary programs who were not in a TDSB school in June 2025 will need to upload a PDF of both of their report cards from the 2024-25 school year (not the fall interim report card).

Please upload a copy of the student's report card from June 2025. If the achievement from Report 1 (Feb 2025) is not shown in the June 2025 report card, please upload the February report card as well.

☐ Check this box if you do not have report cards from the 2024-25 school year.

2024-25 Final June Report Card required
(file format: PDF Only)

Upload...

Applying to TDSB Specialized Programs

- Once started, the application can be saved along the way. There is no reminder to complete and submit if the application is incomplete.
- Students and their parents/guardians and caregivers should make every effort attend all appropriate Open Houses before making a final decision about program choices.
- Once submitted, the application cannot be changed.
- ***The application closes Friday, December 12, 2025 at noon***

IT IS NOT A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE APPLICATION.

Seating Criteria for Specialized Programs

- Applicants will be selected and seated in programs based on the strength of their application.
 - Report card achievement from select subjects from 2024-25 will make up 30% of your applicant score.
 - The evaluation of your demonstration of knowledge and skills will make up the remaining 70% of your applicant score.

Visit the [Academic Achievement and Demonstration of Knowledge and Skills](#) website for more detailed information.

Report Cards Marks for International Baccalaureate Programs:

Average of Language, Math, Science & Technology, French (one mark determined by averaging the four individual French strands), Geography and History.

PowerSchool will calculate a “Grade” for each applicant based on the June Report 2 achievement data.

Should there be no Report 2 mark, the Report 1 mark will be used for that subject.

This average will make up 30% of the applicant score.

Report Cards Marks for Math, Science and Technology Programs:

Average of **Math and Science & Technology**

PowerSchool will calculate a “Grade” for each applicant based on the June Report 2 achievement data.

Should there be no Report 2 mark, the Report 1 mark will be used for that subject.

This average will make up 30% of the applicant score.

Demonstration of Knowledge and Skills for International Baccalaureate Programs:

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 (4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

At your Primary Choice International Baccalaureate program school

60-minute in-person evaluation and written response

- Format will be multiple choice (30 min) and one opinion-based written question (30 min).
- Multiple Choice will assess skill in mathematical reasoning and problem solving, and French Language proficiency.
- The demonstration of skills and knowledge assess content learning from the grade 7 curriculum expectations and will focus on problem-solving and thinking skills.
- Written question will be assessed by rubric.

Demonstration of Knowledge & Skills for Math, Science and Technology Programs:

Monday, December 15, 2025 (4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

At your Primary Choice Math, Science and Technology program school

60-minute in-person Multiple Choice Assessment

- Entire assessment will be multiple choice.
- Multiple Choice questions will assess skill in mathematical reasoning, scientific problem solving and innovation, and coding.
- The demonstration of skills and knowledge assess content learning from the grade 7 curriculum expectations and will focus on problem-solving and thinking skills.

Learning-Related Accommodations

Applicants can request learning related accommodations on the in-person demonstration of knowledge and skills in the application.

Appropriate accommodations relevant to the format of the assessment, supported by the applicant's Individual Education Plan will be provided.

- Individual Education Plans for TDSB applicants will be accessed internally.
- Non-TDSB applicants must bring hard copies of their Individual Education Plan to the in-person session.

Learning-Related Supports for Multilingual Learners

Applicants for whom English is not their first language, where the applicant has been in Canada for less than 5 years, can request learning related supports on the in-person demonstration of knowledge and skills in the application.

Appropriate supports relevant to the format of the assessment, that are being provided by the current school and that are consistent with EQAO accommodations, will be provided.

This may include the use of a translating dictionary (not electronic) and extra time.

Contact CentralPrograms@tdsb.on.ca with any questions related to accommodations.

What you should bring:

- Non-programmable calculator or non-programmable scientific calculator
- Writing tools (pencil #2 HB, eraser, and pen). A ruler is optional.
- Your current student card showing your photograph and your first and last name.
- Applicants can bring a bottle of water with them to their desk.
- Non-TDSB applicants who have requested learning-related accommodations must bring a hard copy of their current Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Multilingual Language Learners may bring a hard copy translation dictionary. It must be inspected by a staff member prior to use.
- A bag to hold your personal belongings (including your phone, watch, all other personal items) in the examination room. Student belongings will not be allowed beside students. They will be held in the front/back of the room. Please note that the TDSB is not responsible for lost or stolen items. We recommend that you leave all valuables at home

The Selection and Admissions Process

Applicants will be seated in programs based on their applicant score (report card achievement + demonstration of knowledge and skills).

The process will occur centrally and all communication will come via email from the Central Program Admissions Office. Please do not contact schools directly for selection results.

- **February 11, 2026** - Acceptances and waitlist status will be sent centrally, via email, to all applicants. **Offers expire February 17, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**
- **Offers will continue to be made, where vacant seats are available, on the 18th and 25th of February.**

The Selection and Admissions Process

NOTE:

- There is no sibling priority for Specialized Programs
- Students already attending an elementary Specialized Program are not given priority for secondary programs
- There is no priority for local applicants
- Students that live in the designated area for a school that offers a Specialized Program must still apply through this process if they wish to participate in the program



Questions?

Preparing for the Assessment

- How to approach Multiple Choice problems
- Reviewing the Ontario Mathematics Curriculum using Education Perfect
- Preparing for the Opinion Essay (IB only)

Multiple Choice - How Can I Review?

QUESTIONS COVER CURRICULUM UP TO THE END OF YOUR LAST GRADE

- ★ French covers vocabulary, grammar and writing conventions, and reading comprehension.
 - **French is covered in the IB assessment only**
- ★ Science covers curricular concepts in all strands (including coding). You DO NOT need to know any programming languages.
 - **Science is covered in the MST assessment only**
- ★ Math covers curricular concepts in all strands, with an emphasis on application and thinking problems.
 - **Math is covered in both IB and MST assessments**

Sample Problem

Alex pays \$2.25 to take the bus. Sam pays \$3.00 to take the bus. If they each take the bus 20 times, how much less would Alex pay than Sam in total?

- a. \$25 b. \$10 c. \$15 d. \$45 e. \$60

Tip #1: Take Time to Understand

- ★ Don't just assume you know what is being asked.
- ★ Read the entire question carefully. Don't rush.
- ★ Identify crucial keywords like **NOT**, **EXCEPT**, **ALWAYS**, or **NEVER**.
- ★ Identify any specific language that might be important like **WHOLE NUMBER**, **SUM**, **PRODUCT**, **DIFFERENCE**.
- ★ Answer the question in your head, or use the space in your booklet to find the solution before you look at the answers. This prevents you from being tricked by "distractor" answers.

Tip #2: Analyze Every Option



Don't just pick the first answer that looks good.

There might be a *better* answer further down the list.



The test may ask for the "best" choice, meaning other options could be partially correct. Find the most complete one.



Use context clues. Sometimes information from another question can jog your memory or provide a hint!

Tip #3: Use The Process of Elimination

- ★ **Cross out** answers you know are wrong.
- ★ **Compare the remaining options.** Which one is more specific, or more general, as the question requires?
- ★ **Increase your odds.** If you can eliminate just one wrong answer, your odds of guessing correctly jump from 20% to 25%

Tip 4: Use a Smart “Guessing” Approach

50%

*Your odds if you can eliminate 3 answers

When You Have to Guess

- ★ Eliminate any wrong answers
- ★ Be wary of absolutes like “always” and “never”
- ★ Trust your gut

Sample Problem

Alex pays \$2.25 to take the bus. Sam pays \$3.00 to take the bus. If they each take the bus 20 times, how much less would Alex pay than Sam in total?

- a. \$25 b. \$10 c. \$15 d. \$45 e. \$60

Sample Problem

Alex pays \$2.25 to take the bus. Sam pays \$3.00 to take the bus. If they each take the bus 20 times, how much less would Alex pay than Sam in total?

a. \$25

b. \$10

c. \$15

d. \$45

e. \$60

Sample Problem

Alex pays \$2.25 to take the bus. Sam pays \$3.00 to take the bus. If they each take the bus 20 times, how much less would Alex pay than Sam in total?

a. \$25

b. \$10

c. \$15

d. \$45

e. \$60

Tip #5: Don't Get “Stuck” on Harder Questions

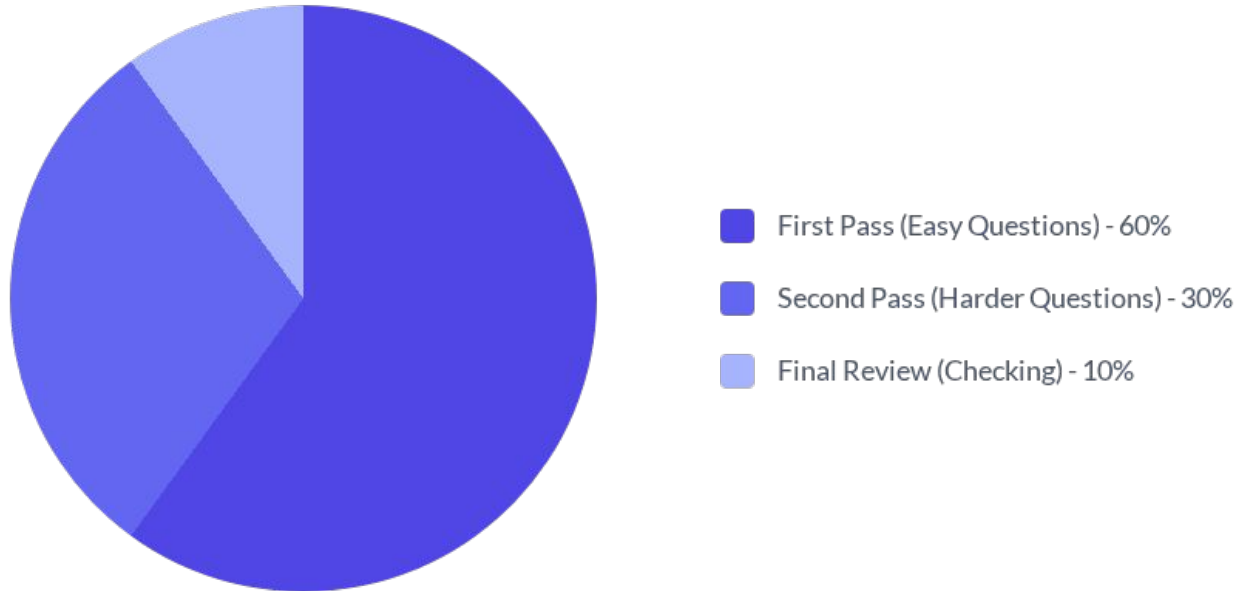
Skip and Return

If you get stuck on a question, mark it and move on. Spending too much time on one hard question can cost you points on easier ones you'll miss later.

Maintain Your Pace

Keep an eye on the clock. Allocate your time wisely based on the number of questions and their point value. Don't get bogged down.

Tip #6: Pace Yourself



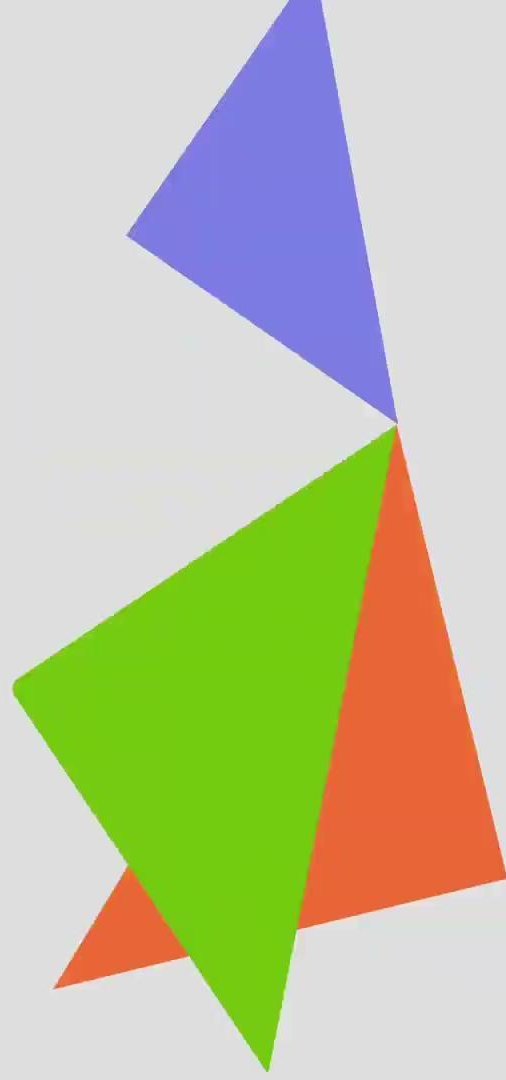
Pace yourself. Don't spend 50% of your time on 10% of the questions. Check the clock periodically.

Tip #7: Take a Final Review

- ★ Only change an answer if you are *certain* you made a mistake or found new information.
- ★ Your first instinct is probably correct
- ★ Make sure you have correctly filled out your answer form
- ★ Don't leave any answers blank. Take your best guess!
- ★ Ensure you haven't missed any questions or filled in the wrong bubble.

Review the Math Curriculum Concepts

- ★ Students in the TDSB can review concepts covered in the assessment using the digital tool “Education Perfect”
- ★ These concepts are all multiple choice and emphasize application and thinking
- ★ All students in the TDSB currently are registered and ready to use this resource
- ★ Immediate feedback and review lessons are available through this tool
- ★ For additional learning resources you can reach out to your teacher who can add “assessments” in Education Perfect that will provide you with lessons tailored specifically to you!





Questions?

Preparing for the Opinion Essay (IB)

Sample Question:

Write a minimum of three paragraphs expressing an opinion on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting reasons, examples, and details.

Do you think schools should restrict the kinds of foods that students bring for their snacks and lunches? Why or why not?

Plan Your Approach

- ★ Take the time to create an outline in the space provided for rough work and leave some time at the end for review
- ★ Read the question and choose your stance/opinion. DO NOT ARGUE BOTH SIDES
- ★ Brainstorm and list three points (reasons) that support your response
- ★ Write down examples/proof that will support your points. These points could be personal experiences, the experiences of others, examples from the broader world, or from things you have learned or read
- ★ Make sure you organize your thoughts and think about how you want your essay to progress

Write Your Response

- ★ Be sure to use the designated writing area in your booklet
- ★ Stick to your outline - it is easy to get caught up in the writing process, but taking your time and following your plan is the best way to communicate your ideas to the reader
- ★ Write an opening paragraph that clearly expresses your opinion.
- ★ Include at least 3 sentences that provide the reasons that support your opinion.

Write Your Response Continued

- ★ To support the organization of your ideas, follow a point, proof, and comment series of sentences in your body paragraphs. Use connecting phrases such as: “This is true because...”; “For this reason I believe...”; or “Obviously, no one could doubt that...”.
- ★ Make sure that your sentences are connected, and not a series of bullet points.
- ★ Write a concluding paragraph that connects to the main idea, beginning with words and phrases like “That is why,” “Therefore,” or “To sum it up.”

Review and Revise

- ★ Check to make sure that you have written your response in the correct section and that you did not go beyond the ruled lines.
- ★ Put your best writing forward - check that you have capitals and the beginning and correct punctuation at the end.
- ★ Make sure that all your reasons are supported by examples and that your essay is organized in a way that is logical.
- ★ Make sure that your writing is clear and easy to read.

Go Through Your Mental Checklist

- ☐ I have chosen a clear position
- ☐ I have brainstormed my ideas
- ☐ I have an outline with three points/reasons that support my position
- ☐ I have developed my ideas with supporting details (facts, proof, and examples)
- ☐ I have written at least 3 paragraphs without going beyond the ruled lines
- ☐ What I believe is stated clearly in the opening paragraph
- ☐ I did not change my position or provide both sides
- ☐ I have clearly marked paragraphs
- ☐ I have used complete sentences
- ☐ I have reviewed my writing and checked for clarity, organization, and good writing conventions



Questions?

Additional Resources Website

- Video recording of this presentation
- Slides used in this presentation
- Specialized Program Q & A (already posted)

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/cpao/Central-Program-Admissions-Office/Specialized-Programs/Additional-Resources>