

Kensington CS, King Edward Jr & Sr PS, Orde St PS, and Ryerson CS – Program Area Review

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: Thursday, April 17, 2025

The FAQ was updated with the verbal and written questions that were asked at the April 10th public meeting (labelled with ***NEW***).

Section 1: Review Process General Questions

1. What kind of review is this and what is the purpose of this review?

Kensington CS, King Edward Jr & Sr PS, Orde St PS, and Ryerson CS are currently part of a Program Area Review.

Orde St PS has increased in enrolment and is operating close to capacity. Long term enrolment projections suggest the school may soon go above capacity, resulting in not enough classroom spaces for students. In addition, the school building and site are small, which does not allow for portables to be placed to help with any future growth.

The review also aims to address the low enrolment at Kensington CS. The school has space available and there is an opportunity to increase enrolment numbers at the school.

King Edward Jr & Sr PS and Ryerson CS are included in this review as they play an integral role to achieving balanced student enrolment for schools within the area.

2. What is a “Program Area Review”?

A Program Area Review is a process that the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) follows when considering:

- Changes to the grade configuration of a school (excluding changes to grade configurations of French Immersion or Extended French programs and programs for students with special needs). An example of a grade reconfiguration would be changing the grades offered at a school from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 to Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8.
- The establishment of new schools or specialized programs.

3. What is a “Program Area Review Team” or “PART”?

A Program Area Review Team (PART) is a group formed to conduct a Program Area Review. This team includes the local trustee(s), superintendent(s), principal(s), and the school council chair or designate of each school affected by the review. The Program Area Review Team is supported by central staff, including but not limited to Planning, Teaching and Learning, and Special Education, to provide information, analysis, and resource support.

Meetings are held during the duration of the review known as “PART Meetings” and the PART members use the information provided by Staff, communicate with the local community and staff, and analyze different options and their potential implications.

4. How can I participate in this review, provide my feedback, and voice my questions/ concerns?

There are multiple ways to do this:

- You can email the Planning team your feedback and/or questions to the following email: accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca .
- You can provide your feedback and questions to your school's principal and parent representative and they can pass it along to TDSB staff so that it can be discussed and explored at the PART meetings (for more information on what a PART meeting is, please refer to questions 1-3).
- A public meeting will be held to present the information discussed at the PART meetings and to provide an opportunity for the community to express their feedback and voice their questions. Refer to question 5 for additional details about the upcoming public meeting.
- A survey link will be provided to the public and will be open for a week, providing an opportunity for the impacted communities to ask questions and provide their feedback.

5. What are the public meeting details?

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where: The public meeting will be held virtually (online) on Zoom

Participants must pre-register to join the Virtual meeting. To do so, please visit:

https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BxSqiXtkQ4GJhWObr-d-aQ

6. How can I access the public meeting slides and recording? *NEW*****

The public meeting slides and recording have been posted on the TDSB review website <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Search-All-Reviews/id/204>, under the “Meeting - Community Engagement” tab (slightly scroll down).

You can also access the slides at the following link:

https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/Kensington,%20KingEd,%20OrdeSt,%20Ryerson%20Review-%20April%2010%202025%20-%20Public%20Meeting%20Slides.pdf

And can access the meeting recording at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yxtGsusNk4

Additional material and information regarding this review and all the options that have been explored so far can also be found under the “Helpful Information” tab.

7. After the public meeting, what is the next step in the review? *NEW*

The PART will reconvene after the public meeting and review the feedback received from the public. Based on discussions, a final set of recommendations will be determined.

A final staff report will be prepared for this review, which will identify the final set of recommendations for the schools involved. The final staff report will be presented at the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting for discussion on **Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 4:30 pm**.

8. When will a final decision be made regarding this review? *NEW*

A final decision will be at the Board of Trustees meeting on **Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 4:30 pm**. The public can watch the live webcast of this meeting.

A link to the live webcast will be provided through the following TDSB website:
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Live-Webcast-of-Meetings> .

9. Are there any other meetings the public/community can participate in? *NEW*

The Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 is an opportunity for members of the public to make verbal presentations or submit written material, expressing their thoughts on the final set of recommendations. This is known as a “delegation”.

Requests to delegate for this review must be made by **Monday, June 9, 2025 at 4:00 pm**. To register a delegation or for more information regarding the delegation process, please visit the TDSB website:
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/leadership/boardroom/delegations> .

Please note that there are no delegations happening at the Board of Trustee meeting on Wednesday June 18 2025 (question 8).

Section 2: Proposed Changes in this Program Area Review

10. What is being proposed through this review and when will the changes be applied to the schools involved?

The PART is proposing the following changes:

- A. Changing the Orde St PS grade range from JK to grade 8 to JK to grade 6. Change proposed to be implemented for September 2026.
- B. Moving the Orde St PS grades 7 and 8 to Ryerson CS. Change proposed to be implemented for September 2026.
- C. Redirecting new residential developments (have not been occupied yet) within the Orde St PS boundary to Kensington CS and King Edward Jr & Sr PS. Change proposed to be implemented for September 2025.

The PART may consider other options that are suggested in the public meeting. Please note that no decisions have been made for this review.

11. Will bussing/ transportation provided to Orde St PS grades 7 and 8 that will be going to Ryerson CS?

As stated in the [Transportation of Students Policy \(P020\)](#), TTC tickets will be provided to Grade 6 to 8 students that live beyond a school's 3.2 km walking distance upon parental/guardian request.

In the case of this review, the Orde St PS boundary falls within Ryerson's 3.2 km walking distance radius, hence grade 7 and 8 students living within the Orde St PS boundary are not eligible for any transportation services.

12. Are there any impacts and/or plans to relocate the daycares out of the schools?

There are no proposed changes to any exclusive child care spaces in the involved schools as part of this review.

13. Which current Orde St PS students will be moving to Ryerson CS in September 2026?

If the proposed recommendation is approved, Orde St PS students that are currently in grades 5 and 6 (i.e. this school year) and will be in grade 6 and 7 in the 2025-26 school year (i.e. next school year), they will be moving to Ryerson CS starting September 2026 for grades 7 and 8.

14. Why can't Orde Street PS students that will be in grade 8 as of September 2026 remain at Orde St PS until graduation? They have one more year left, why make them move?

There are three main reasons for this:

- Orde St PS is at capacity and is projected to not have enough classrooms to accommodate the current and future student population. Orde St PS is in need of immediate relief in order to ensure the students have enough classrooms for learning/teaching. As a result, it is necessary to move the grades 7 and 8 as soon as possible.
- Moving the grades 7 only and keeping the grades 8 would result in a gap at Orde St PS, where there are no grade 7s. This may cause staffing issues for the 2026-27 school year (i.e. year of implementation) and reduces the intermediate learning opportunities for those students.
- Moving both grades at the same time to Ryerson CS will help ease the transition for students as they would be moving together and would be attending the new school with their current classmates that they have attended school with for the past several years.

15. Has the PART explored an option where Orde St PS remains a JK to grade 8 school? *NEW*

Yes, the PART has explored this option. Please refer to “Option 9” document under the “Helpful Information” tab on the Review website.

Please note that option 9 is not being recommended by the Program Area Review Team (PART). Please refer to page 5 of the document for a detailed explanation.

The PART continues to recommend Option 8 for this review (the option that was presented during the public meeting).

16. Tell us more about Ryerson CS. *NEW*

Ryerson Community School is a vibrant and diverse JK to grade 8 school in the heart of the Alexandra Park neighbourhood. Ryerson is well-connected within the community, including ongoing relationships with George Brown Fashion District daycare, Jing Bao Daycare, Scadding Court Community Centre, Sanderson Library, Cecil Community Centre and the Jays Care Foundation. The school is proud to be a TDSB Model School for Inner Cities.

Students at Ryerson CS enjoy a wide variety of learning opportunities, including support for English language acquisition and Special Education needs. Ryerson also has a well established intermediate program and welcomes students from a number of neighbouring schools for Grade 7/8, creating a vibrant intermediate experience. The school is equipped with the staff and educational resources/tools that will support elementary students transition into the middle school/ intermediate grades. Ryerson’s intermediate students enjoy opportunities for leadership development through Student Council, where students meet to discuss school needs and plan events that enhance our school experience.

Beyond the classroom, there are many opportunities for engagement from intramural and inter-school sports teams to reading programs in our school Library as well as environmental and social justice programs.

Ryerson CS runs a daily Nutrition Program that serves a morning meal to all students, and has an option to purchase a hot lunch made on site each day. The food offered follows TDSB policy and Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating. The school has an amazing Nutrition Program staff who keep these programs running each and every day. All food available at school takes into account the allergies, food sensitivities and food needs of our families (e.g., vegetarian options available, all meat served is Halal).

17. What other schools feed into Ryerson CS for grades 7 and 8? *NEW*

Charles G Fraser Jr PS, Niagara Street Jr PS, and Ogden Jr PS currently feed into Ryerson CS for grades 7 and 8.

18. What is the building and repair state of Ryerson? And has that been taken into consideration in this review? *NEW*

The TDSB maintains an extensive database on the facility condition of our schools. Each school has something called a “Facility Condition Index (FCI) rating” assigned to it. This rating is a measurement of the condition of a school building expressed as a percentage. It is obtained by dividing the amount of a school’s renewal backlog by the school’s total Asset Replacement Value (ARV).

Since the TDSB has a large number of older buildings, it has unique spaces in its schools such as wide corridors, larger room sizes, parenting centres, lunchrooms, child care facilities, swimming pools and auditoriums, which are outside the scope of the Ministry’s Area Benchmark or ARV. Although some of the renewal backlog might be related to these spaces, the cost of the replacement school does not include these spaces or features in its design. This results in a lower ARV and subsequently a higher FCI.

Please note that the FCI rating does not reflect on the safety of a school building.

In the case of Ryerson CS, the school’s FCI is 47.1%, which is comparable to the School Board average for a TDSB school building. For comparison, Orde St PS FCI is currently 65.3%, Kensington CS FCI is currently 69.9% and King Edward Jr & Sr PS FCI is currently 47.8%.

In terms of upcoming projects, the playground area is being renewed and will be worked on over the course of summer 2025 and aimed to be completed by Fall 2025. This project aims to improve the play area and play experience for all students, across all grades.

For additional information regarding TDSB building conditions, please visit the TDSB’s website <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Accountability/Renewal-Needs-Backlog-and-Facility-Condition-Index/Facility-Condition-Index> .

19. What is the educational ranking of Ryerson CS? *NEW*

The Toronto District School Board does not support the ranking of schools for a number of reasons. School rankings encourage quick judgments about the overall school quality that cannot be substantiated by such limited information, in this case EQAO tests and OSSLT results. These school rankings do not provide important contextual information about the student experience in these schools, nor do they accurately reflect broader information about the quality of student learning within these schools. These rankings do not take into account important social and economic factors that also contribute to testing performance such as special education needs, and students whose first language is not English.

For additional information on the TDSB’s stance on school rankings, please visit the TDSB website <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/research/Research/TDSB-Results-for-EQAO-and-the-OSSLT/Fraser-Institute-School-Rankings> .

20. What is being done to ensure students have a positive transition from Orde St PS to Ryerson CS? *NEW*

If the proposal of moving Orde St PS grades 7 and 8 to Ryerson CS is approved, a transition plan will be put in place in advance of September 2026. The necessary support systems will be identified and put in place based on conversations with students, parents, staff, and Principals.

In addition, over the course of the 2025-26 school year (i.e. the year before implementation), Orde St PS families will be invited to attend and participate in events being held at Ryerson CS, such as open houses and school events. This would provide an opportunity to introduce students and families to their next school and become familiar with staff and the building.

21. Can the implementation be further pushed to September 2027? *NEW*

Typically for TDSB reviews, a one year notice is provided in order to give families time to make certain decisions before the approved changes are implemented. While this may vary from one review to the next depending on the circumstance, a one year notice has been possible for this review.

Considering the current and projected enrolment pressures at Orde St PS, there is a need for a solution as soon as possible to address these space and enrolment issues.

22. What is the list of residential developments, within the Orde St PS, that will be redirected to Kensington, King Edward, and surrounding schools? *NEW*

You can find this list of residential developments that are being redirected under the “Helpful Information” tab, on the TDSB review website for this review

(<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Search-All-Reviews/id/204>). The name of the document is “Summary List of Redirections”.

Section 3: Out-of-Area Admissions

23. Will students attending Orde St PS who live out-of-area also be able to attend Ryerson CS for grades 7 and 8?

As per the Out-of-Area Admissions Policy (P013), out-of-area students attending Orde St PS who wish to attend the school at the next level (in this case that would be Ryerson CS) will be required to apply to Ryerson CS via the Out-of-Area Admissions process.

Ryerson CS Out-of-Area admissions status is currently "Limited" which means the school may admit students subject to space availability.

24. Can the younger siblings of a grade 7 or 8 student attending Ryerson CS be able to register at Ryerson CS?

Younger siblings who wish to join their older sibling who is attending Ryerson CS for grades 7 or 8 will have to apply to Ryerson CS via the Out-of-Area admissions process. As mentioned in question 23, Ryerson CS's Out-of-Area admissions status is currently "Limited". This means the school may admit students depending on space availability within a particular grade.

As stated in the Out-of-Area Admissions Policy (P013), seats will be filled at a school by grade according to space availability and admission priorities. The first priority is for students who have a sibling currently attending the requested school and that sibling will still be attending the requested school the next school year. Admission into Ryerson CS via the Out-of-Area process is not guaranteed.

25. Can we apply to King Edward Jr & Sr PS through the Out of Area Admission process? *NEW*

King Edward is currently Closed to out of area admissions, which means the school does not accept out of area students.

Kensington and Ryerson are "limited" to out of area admissions. This means that families that live out of the area will be able to apply. As mentioned in questions 23 and 24, admission to either school is not a guarantee and it is based on space availability within a particular grade.

Out of Area statuses are revised annually and posted on the TDSB website in November.