



Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 Program Area Review

Questions and Answers (as of April 4, 2019)

1. What is a Program Area Review?

A Program Area Review (PART) looks at the programs offered within a community or grouping of schools and identifies program gaps or space needs. It may involve looking at a range of options to increase access to programs including the establishment of new schools, introduction of new specialized programs or possible changes to grade configurations.

To learn more about Program Area Reviews, please visit:

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/TDS130%20ParentGuardian%20F-act-revised-final-print%20version-Nov.%2020,%202017.pdf.

A PART is one of the strategies included in the Board's Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS), a document that was first created in 2014 and is reviewed annually. The strategy provides an approach to program and accommodation planning with a ten-year timeframe that allows for responsiveness and flexibility in a changing environment. It is a roadmap for the future that identifies future studies that could lead to Accommodation Reviews.

To learn more about the Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy, please visit:

https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/Tab1LTPAS2018.pdf

2. Why is the Yonge-Eglinton community being engaged in another review?

Designated as an 'Urban Centre' under the City's Official Plan and Provincial Growth Plan, Yonge-Eglinton is an area where a high rate of density and intensification is encouraged. Development activity has been accelerating in this area over the past five years, which has caused accommodation pressures at local elementary schools.

Despite having secured capital funding to construct new elementary capacity and implementing a series of changes to boundaries, grades and programs to manage enrolment growth, accommodation pressures continue to impact local elementary schools. In other areas of the City enrolment growth and accommodation pressures can simply be accommodated by using portables. In most cases, this is not possible in the Yonge-Eglinton area due to the constraints of the local school sites. Therefore, accommodation pressures must be addressed and managed in other, more extensive, creative and strategic ways.

Enrolment projections also suggest higher rates of growth at local schools. This is due to a significant number of new residential development applications and higher pupil yields from existing developments in the area. Through the City's Midtown in Focus exercise, the TDSB was provided with long-term population and household projections for the next 30 years. Based on the analysis undertaken by Board Planning staff in collaboration with the City of Toronto, a shortfall of nearly 800 elementary pupil places is anticipated over the long-term. The Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan (YESP) recognizes that new public school infrastructure is a critical infrastructure priority, and the requirement for a new public elementary school is clearly stated

within the plan. These long-range projections suggest that there is no end to the accommodation challenges that currently face schools in the community, particularly at Eglinton Jr PS, which is currently designated as the school to accommodate the vast majority of additional density and population growth.

The aim of the Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 Program Area Review is to find solutions within our control that will reduce the accommodation pressures at Eglinton Jr PS while balancing enrolment and programming options amongst local schools until a new school in the Yonge-Eglinton area is built.

3. What exactly has the TDSB done to address this growth?

As mentioned above, over the last ten years, TDSB staff have undertaken a number of reviews in an attempt to address enrolment growth in the area, including:

- 2009-10: A Pupil Accommodation Review involving Davisville Jr PS, Eglinton Jr PS, Hodgson Sr PS, Maurice Cody Jr PS, and Spectrum Alternative school was undertaken to balance enrolment within area schools. Board-approved recommendations from this review included the relocation of Spectrum Alternative School from Eglinton Jr PS to Davisville Jr PS, internal renovations to create an additional kindergarten room at Eglinton Jr PS, as well as an addition at Maurice Cody Jr PS. Lastly, a new French Immersion program began at Davisville Jr PS in 2009 to address growing demand for the program.
- 2013-15: Relocation of the Toronto Lands Corporation office from Davisville Jr PS in 2013 into their current location at 60 St. Clair Avenue East. In 2014, the Deaf & Hard of Hearing program was also relocated from Davisville Jr PS to Faywood ABC School. To address increasing demand for Extended French programming in the area, a new Extended French program was created in 2015 at Forest Hill Jr & Sr PS.
- 2015-16: Continued accommodation pressures in the area required TDSB staff to engage the community in a comprehensive Program Area Review. This review involved Davisville Jr PS, Eglinton Jr PS, Forest Hill Jr & Sr PS, Hodgson Sr PS, Maurice Cody Jr PS, Oriole Park Jr & Sr PS, and Spectrum Alternative School. The culmination of this review resulted in grade changes at Davisville Jr PS (English track only), Eglinton Jr PS, Maurice Cody Jr PS, Oriole Park Jr PS (all of which became JK to Grade 5 schools), and Hodgson Sr PS (which became a Grades 6-8 school). A boundary change between Eglinton Jr PS/Hodgson Sr PS and Northlea E & MS was also approved by the Board of Trustees. To support these changes, and in recognition of the accommodation pressures that exist in this area, capital funding was also secured from the Ministry of Education to construct a new, larger facility for Davisville Jr PS/Spectrum Alternative School as well as large addition at Hodgson MS.
- 2017-18: A boundary change review between Eglinton Jr PS and Maurice Cody Jr PS was completed in June 2018 to continue implementing recommendations that came out of the 2015/16 PART process. The boundary change will be coming into full effect in September 2019. The Board also approved the redirection of nine new residential developments within the Eglinton Jr PS attendance area to Whitney Jr PS to mitigate further growth at Eglinton Jr PS.

2018-19: Submitted a revised Business Case to the Ministry of Education for an additional 5-rooms at the new Davisville/Spectrum and for a larger addition at Hodgson MS.

Despite all of these studies, we are aware that accommodation pressures continue at local elementary schools (particularly at Eglinton Jr PS). As a result, we are proceeding with the second phase of the Yonge-Eglinton Program Area Review.

4. What are the Local Feasibility Team's recommendations for the Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 review?

The Local Feasibility Team (LFT) includes Principals, Superintendents, Trustees, and central staff. Similar to the Program Area Review Team, the role of the LFT is to review data and assess the impacts of various options to address the issues and gaps identified. The aim of the LFT is to agree on a recommendation to bring to the Program Area Review Team for further consultation.

The LFT for Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 met on five occasions between November 2018 and February 2019. Options that were discussed within the authority of the TDSB included various junior/intermediate boundary changes, program moves, continued development redirections away from Eglinton Jr PS, reclaiming child care spaces, using local secondary schools to accommodate elementary students, and the use of a campus model to balance enrolment within the Eglinton Jr PS local attendance area.

The LFT is recommending that a regular track program be established at John Fisher Jr PS to alleviate ongoing accommodation pressures at Eglinton Jr PS. John Fisher Jr PS is situated within the Yonge-Eglinton Centre, a rapidly intensifying area where new opportunities to accommodate enrolment growth are critical. Currently, Eglinton Jr PS is the only designated elementary school for the regular English program to accommodate all of this growth, which is neither sustainable nor possible given the site's physical space constraints.

To address the loss of French Immersion spaces associated with John Fisher Jr PS becoming a dual track school, the LFT is recommending that a previously closed school, Bannockburn PS, located at Avenue Road and Wilson Avenue, be re-opened in 2022 as a French Immersion Centre. This school will open up over 300 pupil places to accommodate students in the French Immersion program that reside north of the Yonge-Eglinton Centre.

As a dual track school, John Fisher Jr PS will continue offering a French Immersion program to students residing in the Yonge-Eglinton Centre.

In addition, the LFT is also proposing additional boundary and program changes.

The LFT's full set of recommendations are as follows:

- A boundary change between Eglinton Jr PS and Northlea E & MS to direct the portion of Eglinton Jr PS' junior attendance area, south of Fairfield Road, east of Cardiff Road, and north of Eglinton Avenue East to Northlea E & MS effective September 2019;
- A boundary change between Hodgson MS and Northlea E & MS to direct the portion of Hodgson MS' intermediate attendance area, south of Fairfield Road, east of Cardiff Road, north of Eglinton Avenue East, and west of Bayview Avenue to Northlea E & MS effective September 2020;

- The relocation of the Grade 4 Entry Extended French programs from Eglinton Jr PS and Hodgson MS into Bedford Park PS effective September 2020 (program to be gradually phased out of Eglinton Jr PS and into Bedford Park PS);
- The creation of an English track at John Fisher Jr PS effective September 2021, so that John Fisher Jr PS becomes a dual track JK-5 (English) and SK-6 (French Immersion) school. In order to ensure that all students from local elementary schools start at Hodgson MS together in Grade 6, the LFT's recommendation is that the English stream at John Fisher Jr PS goes to Grade 5 while the French Immersion stream continues to go up to Grade 6;
- A boundary change between Eglinton Jr PS and John Fisher Jr PS to direct the portion of Eglinton Jr PS' junior attendance area north of Roehampton Avenue west of Redpath Avenue, and north of Broadway Avenue east of Redpath Avenue to John Fisher Jr PS effective September 2021;
- Re-opening Bannockburn PS as an SK to Grade 6 French Immersion Centre effective September 2022; and,
- The continued redirection of residential development applications away from Eglinton Jr PS to other elementary schools (until 2027 or at a time when enrolment stabilizes at the school).

The Program Area Review Team (PART) is now being engaged to provide further comment on this recommendation. The PART can also bring forward new options for staff to consider.

5. Why is John Fisher Jr PS being affected by these proposed changes?

John Fisher Jr PS is a French Immersion centre located in the heart of the rapidly intensifying Yonge-Eglinton urban centre. Students that reside north of this area are bussed to the school for its French Immersion program.

Bussing students into one of the most over-crowded parts of the City for French Immersion programming is no longer sustainable given the accommodation pressures that exist within the area, and the critical lack of available space at the local school, Eglinton Jr PS.

For this reason, John Fisher Jr PS is being considered as an option to accommodate the enrolment growth in the regular program. Re-opening Bannockburn PS (located near Avenue Road and Wilson Avenue) as a French Immersion centre will allow French Immersion students residing north of the Yonge-Eglinton centre to attend French Immersion programming closer to where they live, while freeing up space at John Fisher Jr PS to accommodate increasing numbers of local regular program students in the area.

If John Fisher Jr PS were to become a dual track school, as has been recommended by the LFT, a French Immersion option would still be available for students residing in the Yonge-Eglinton centre.

6. What would the proposed French Immersion catchment be for Bannockburn PS if it opens in September 2022?

If approved, Bannockburn PS would open as a French Immersion centre in September 2022. The proposed French Immersion catchment would include a large portion of John Fisher Jr PS' existing

French Immersion catchment— specifically Bedford Park PS, Blythwood Jr PS and John Wanless Jr PS, as well as students from other nearby schools such as Ledbury Park E & MS and John Ross Robertson Jr PS.

Generally, Ledbury Park E & MS and John Ross Robertson Jr PS students are directed to Glen Park Jr PS for French Immersion. The exact catchment could vary from a year-to-year basis, similar to existing practice; it is contingent on the number of applications received. Per TDSB Operational Procedure PR 597, all students applying for French as a Second Language programs are guaranteed a spot in a program, but there is no guarantee as to the school a student will be placed in.

7. With the new French Immersion centre opening at Bannockburn PS and the boundary changes being proposed, can students who are attending John Fisher Jr PS in the 2021-22 school year continue at John Fisher Jr PS in September 2022 instead of moving to Bannockburn PS?

This model has been proposed to ensure that there is a critical mass of students to support a viable French Immersion program at Bannockburn PS in its inaugural year while building in space at John Fisher Jr PS to accommodate local regular program students from Eglinton Jr PS.

Extending an opportunity for Grade 1-3 students to remain at John Fisher Jr PS rather than move to Bannockburn PS could impact class sizes and program delivery at Bannockburn PS. Staff recognize that there could be special circumstances (i.e., keeping siblings together) that would need to be considered in grand-parenting decisions. These circumstances would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

John Fisher Jr PS students in Grades 4 to 6, regardless of their home address, would be able to continue at John Fisher Jr PS through to graduation.

8. If the dual track model is implemented, how many entry classes of SK French Immersion would John Fisher Jr PS have?

While the number of SK French Immersion spots is reviewed on an annual basis by the Planning and French as a Second Language departments, the expectation is that John Fisher Jr PS will continue to have two full classes of SK French Immersion in subsequent years, but it will be capped at 46 students to ensure that there is sufficient space to accommodate local regular track students.

9. How many entry classes of SK French Immersion would Bannockburn PS have?

While the number of SK French Immersion spots is reviewed on an annual basis by the Planning and French as Second Language departments, the expectation is that Bannockburn PS will have two full classes of SK French Immersion (capped at 58). Increasing this number would result in multiple portables being required on the site over a period of time.

10. Will students be bussed to Bannockburn PS for French Immersion?

As per the TDSB Transportation policy, students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 may be eligible for school bus transportation if they live 1.6km or more away from their home school. Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 may be eligible to receive TTC tickets if they live 3.2km or more away from their home school. Students in French Immersion must meet the distance criteria and be attending the designated French Immersion program based on their home school.

11. Would child care be offered at Bannockburn PS?

Aligned with Bannockburn PS' school registration, TDSB child care staff would host a registration to assess demand and viability for a before-and after-school program. If there is sufficient demand, a before-and after-school program would be developed at Bannockburn PS for September 2022.

TDSB staff will work collaboratively with the City of Toronto to identify whether or not additional child care space to serve pre-school aged children would be required at the site. Determining whether or not there is a need for additional space is the responsibility of the City of Toronto, and would be informed by the City's recently completed service plan.

12. What would the French Immersion pathway be for French Immersion students attending Bannockburn PS?

No changes to the existing pathway have been recommended by the Local Feasibility Team. The French Immersion pathway for students attending Bannockburn PS would be the same as for those attending John Fisher Jr PS—Glenview Sr PS for Grades 7 and 8 and the Lawrence Park CI for Grades 9 through 12.

13. If a student decides to leave French Immersion programming at Bannockburn PS or John Fisher Jr PS, where would they go for English programming?

As per TDSB Operational Procedure PR 597, any student wishing to withdraw from French Immersion programming is required to return to their local school for the English Program as determined by their home address or to apply for optional attendance in any English Program School that has a 'limited' optional attendance status. Admission through Optional Attendance will be based on availability of space in the school requested.

An added benefit of having a regular program at John Fisher Jr. PS is that in-district students who do choose to withdraw from French Immersion would not need to leave the school. This is not available currently.

14. What would the Extended French path be for Extended French students at Bedford Park PS?

No changes to the existing pathway have been recommended by the Local Feasibility Team. The Extended French pathway for students attending Bedford Park PS would be the same as for those currently attending Eglinton Jr PS and Hodgson MS for Extended French—Leaside HS for Grades 9 through 12.

15. Can you use the lunchroom to create more space at Eglinton Jr. PS?

The lunchroom is already used for student programming when not in use over the lunch hour; therefore, it is not being considered for retrofit into additional classrooms. Further, adding students to the already over-populated Eglinton Jr PS is not being considered given the broader challenges associated with a larger enrolment.

16. Why hasn't the Board reclaimed the dedicated child care space in Eglinton Jr. PS to add more classrooms?

As described above, adding more students to Eglinton Jr PS is not being recommended given the broader challenges with accommodating a larger enrolment at the site.

More specifically, the TDSB's recently-revised Early Learning and Care policy P022 states that "Board and staff will strive to ensure effective integration of children enrolled in a co-located child care, into the local school, based on the principles of equity, transparency and seamlessness." In some circumstances, TDSB staff may determine that it is necessary to re-examine the lease agreement with the child care to address a lack of classroom space due to increasing student enrolment in the school.

The current agreement with the Central Eglinton Children's Centre expires in 2019. The Board cannot reclaim any space until the term of this agreement expires. The TDSB does have a procedure for reviewing the occupancy by child care centres in relation to the Board's student accommodation requirements. TDSB staff will assess other solutions for the child care in partnership with the City of Toronto as this current review. If the existing child care space is reclaimed by the school, it will become loaded instructional space (i.e. be assigned a capacity), which will increase the total capacity of the school by 92 pupil places.

17. Can you add portables or build an addition at Eglinton Jr. PS?

The school site cannot accommodate portables due to its small size of 1.6 acres. The building cannot accommodate an addition on the current site.

18. Will Eglinton Jr. PS stop accepting new students?

Nine residential developments have already been redirected to Whitney Jr PS. The expectation is that new residential developments will continue to be redirected elsewhere until the accommodation pressures at Eglinton Jr PS subside.

In order to accommodate the students residing in new residential developments within the current catchment area of Eglinton Jr. PS, TDSB staff will be asking the Ministry of Education to provide the funding necessary to build a new school in the area.

In addition, the TDSB is advocating for the Ontario Government to amend the Education Development Charges regulation (Ontario Regulation 20/98) under the *Education Act* to allow the TDSB to collect EDCs to help support urgent school infrastructure needs and reduce overcrowding in high-growth areas of the city. To learn more about Education Development Charges and how you can help, please visit: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Accountability/Renewal-Needs-Backlog-and-Facility-Condition-Index/Education-Development-Charges>.

19. Have TDSB staff worked with City of Toronto staff in an attempt to slow down development in the Yonge-Eglinton area?

TDSB staff have worked closely with City of Toronto staff over the past few years to gain a better understanding of the long-term development potential in the Yonge-Eglinton area.

City staff have provided the TDSB Planning Department with long-term household and population projections for the next 30 years, which staff have been able to incorporate into local schools' enrolment projections.

City Council also approved an update to the Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan in July 2018, which needs to be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs before it comes into effect. TDSB staff were engaged throughout the secondary plan review process (Midtown in Focus) to highlight the need for stronger and more forceful language in the secondary plan regarding the urgent need for new school capacity, to keep pace with the residential growth in the Yonge-Eglinton area.

A number of operative policies are now included in the proposed Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan to reflect the importance of community facilities provision, such as:

- "1.1.1 As Midtown continues to grow and evolve, the elements of a liveable and complete community will be provided in parallel with growth. Residents and workers will be served by new, improved and expanded community service facilities and resilient physical and green infrastructure."
- "2.2.1 Intensification will require investment in infrastructure to support growth and ensure a complete community. Infrastructure includes:
 - b) community service facilities which are buildings and public spaces that accommodate a range of non-profit programs and services provided or subsidized by the City or other public agencies to support people in meeting their social needs and enhance their well-being, health and quality of life. Community service facilities include recreation, community centres, libraries, child care, schools, and spaces for the provision of public health services, human services, cultural services and employment services;"
- "2.2.2 Development will not be permitted to outpace the provision of infrastructure, and will not proceed until such a time as the necessary infrastructure to support development is provided."
- "6.2 Community service facilities will be provided in a timely manner to support and be commensurate with growth."
- "6.8 Development that is phased should include required on-site facilities as part of the first phase of development."
- "6.10 Development may be required to accommodate temporary community service facilities until such time as the permanent community service facilities are constructed and outfitted."
- "9.5.1 A holding provision may be placed on lands where the ultimate desired use of the lands is specified but development cannot take place until conditions set out in this Plan are satisfied. Conditions to be met prior to the removal of the holding provision may include:

c) the provision of community service facilities and public parks;”

TDSB staff continue to be engaged in local-level discussions with City of Toronto Planning staff and developers to seek out options for accommodating schools in mixed-use developments.

Further, TDSB staff have been objecting to new residential development applications in the Yonge-Eglinton area, and have been making representations at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) where possible. The TDSB will continue to oppose new development applications in the area until an appropriate long-term accommodation plan – likely including an opportunity for a new school – is found.

20. How does the Ministry of Education determine the school capacity?

The Ministry has identified categories of instructional space for all elementary and secondary facilities. A loading has been assigned to each category of instructional space based on the number of students that can reasonably be accommodated in the space. For example, each classroom larger than 700 sq. ft. has a loading of 23 students. Given their generally larger size, Kindergarten classrooms have a loading of 26 students. A school’s capacity is the sum of all the loadings for the instructional spaces within a facility. A school’s capacity can change as a result of physical alterations to space within the school.

The capacity is used as a tool in planning accommodation for students and calculating the utilization rate for a school. The utilization rate is the school’s enrolment divided by the school’s capacity.

Eglinton Jr. PS has a utilization rate over 100 percent and is seen as being “over capacity”. To accommodate the current capacity, small resource rooms are being used as classrooms in addition to the number of regular classrooms to serve the total population of the school since many of the classes have more than 23 students.

20. What is the status update on the Hodgson MS addition? Has the Ministry made a decision regarding the larger addition?

TDSB Planning and Facilities staff have been working with the Ministry since early 2018 to advance a business case for a larger addition at Hodgson MS. The latest iteration of the business case was submitted to the Province in November 2018. No response has been received from the Ministry to date. TDSB staff will continue to advocate for a project that meets the long-term accommodation requirements for the area.

21. What about a new school? Wouldn’t that be a more appropriate long-term solution?

Yes, a new school in the Yonge-Eglinton area is needed to manage projected long-term enrolment growth pressures.

Based on the analysis undertaken by Board Planning staff in collaboration with the City of Toronto, a shortfall of nearly 800 elementary pupil places is anticipated by 2051. The Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan (YESP) recognizes that new public school infrastructure is a critical infrastructure priority, and the requirement for a new public elementary school is clearly stated within the plan.

In July 2018, Toronto City Council directed its staff in July 2018 to work collaboratively with TDSB staff to identify opportunities to address this shortfall. This work is ongoing.

At this time, the TDSB does not have a site on which to build a new elementary school. In light of this, incorporating a school within a mixed use development would need to be explored. As mentioned, the policy framework within the YESP supports a new school in the area, which 'opens the door' to these discussions with developers in the area.

The Toronto Lands Corporation is currently undertaking an extensive review of such opportunities and will be reporting back to TDSB staff later this spring on any options that exist. Moving forward, TDSB and TLC staff will be reviewing development applications through the lens of potentially accommodating new school space.

Any opportunity to incorporate a new school within a mixed use development would require funding from the Ministry of Education to secure the space, and then to 'fit-out' the space for instructional purposes.

Limited funds for new capital projects are available provincially, but individual projects must be submitted to the Ministry of Education for consideration by school boards for capital funding support. The limited funding does not address all of the capital requirements of school boards across the Province. The funding 'pot' varies from year to year; therefore, there is no guarantee as to whether or not capital funds will be made available, nor if projects identified by school boards will be supported.

At this time, an opportunity for school boards to identify their top capital priority projects has not been extended by the provincial government.

22. What about the French Review? Is there not a possibility that French Programming within the TDSB will change?

As part of the Director's Response to the Enhanced Equity Task Force Report, a review of all French Programs took place in Spring 2018. In collaboration with the TDSB Research Department, this review focused on the current status of all French Programs, including their structure, content of the curriculum, and policies and procedures related to French. We received significant feedback on the successes and challenges of the various French Programs through face-to-face consultation with parents/guardians, Trustees, staff, students and community members and an online survey. There are several implications with pathway changes that must be considered across the system. The FSL Review will be coming forward to Board in May with recommendations that may influence possible changes moving forward.