



## **Armour Heights PS, St. Andrew's MS & Ledbury EMS Program Area Review Questions and Answers (as of March 18, 2021)**

### **1. What is a Program Area Review?**

A **Program Area Review Team** (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:

[https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC\\_helpful\\_info\\_docs/TDS130%20ParentGuardian%20Fact-revised-final-print%20version-Nov.%202020,%202017.pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/TDS130%20ParentGuardian%20Fact-revised-final-print%20version-Nov.%202020,%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/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Long-Term-Program-and-Accommodation-Strategy>

### **2. When would the grade range expansion start?**

The grade range expansion at Armour Heights is proposed to begin in 2021, with Armour Heights PS retaining its grade 7 cohort. The proposed grade range expansion would be complete by September 2022 with Armour Heights PS retaining its grade 8 cohort.

### **3. Will my address be affected by the proposed boundary change?**

The proposed boundary change is to assign the current shared junior boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury EMS entirely to Ledbury EMS. This proposed change would align with the area's intermediate and secondary boundaries. To see the list of addresses within the shared boundary area please visit: <https://bit.ly/3lk9yFf>

To find your home school pathway based on your address please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/By-Address>

**4. What would be done to ensure grade 7 and 8 students at Armour Heights PS would be prepared for the transition to a much larger secondary school?**

Many schools within the TDSB have a JK-8 model. While preparing for the grade expansion we would look to speak with other schools who have recently undergone similar expansions to learn from their experiences. The library will be expanded to include intermediate level materials. There will be greater leadership and mentorship opportunities for the grade 7 and 8 students with the younger grades. The intermediate grade teachers will focus on organization and notetaking skills to help students prepare for the transition to secondary school.

**5. Will the Autism program at Armour Heights PS also be expanded to be from grade 1-8?**

The Local Feasibility Team discussed the potential to expand the Autism program at Armour Heights, however for the time being the program will remain only as a primary Autism program. The central Special Education department considers the system needs for Intensive Support Programs (ISPs). At this time, there are sufficient Autism programs to accommodate the demand. The location of these programs is reviewed annually.

**6. Will students still be able to go to St. Andrew's MS if they want the middle school experience?**

The PART recommendation is to allow the intermediate pathway to St. Andrew's MS from Armour Heights PS to remain in place for the 2021/2022 school year, for the current gr. 6 class at Armour Heights PS. In years after 2021/2022 the pathway will no longer exist, however students can apply on Optional Attendance to attend St. Andrew's MS if they wish. The current long-term projection for St. Andrew's MS shows that the school will likely retain its "Limited" status for Optional Attendance for years to come.

**7. Will there be any capital improvements made at Armour Heights PS to accommodate the intermediate programming?**

There is no funding available to make capital improvements for this grade range expansion, including items such as installing lockers or purpose-built science labs. There are many K-8 schools within the TDSB that do not have purpose-built specialty rooms but are able to successfully deliver programming to the intermediate grades.

**8. Are any changes to secondary boundaries being considered in the Armour Heights grade range expansion review?**

No. The scope of this review is to look at changing the grade range for Armour Heights PS to serve JK to grade 8 and also assign the current shared junior boundary between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury EMS entirely to Ledbury EMS. This proposed change would align with the area’s intermediate and secondary boundaries. Any changes to the secondary attendance areas for schools involved in this review have the potential for significant implications on secondary school enrolment and utilization. Realignment of secondary boundaries for the elementary schools in this review will require coordinated consideration of programs and boundaries for several secondary schools. Secondary reviews will be prioritized within the upcoming Long-Term Program & Accommodation Strategy for approval by the Board of Trustees.

**9. Is it possible for Armour Heights to become Limited to Optional Attendance for grades 7 and 8?**

The Optional Attendance status of each school is reviewed annually and could change based on the school’s actual enrolment and future projected enrolments. It is to the TDSB’s benefit to have well-utilized elementary and secondary schools. As per the guiding principles of the Long-Term Program & Accommodation Strategy, which were approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2019, an optimal utilization rate is 90%. This optimal rate reflects the efficient use of space and allows the TDSB to reduce the use of portables. The proposed status has been assigned with the intent to keep schools from exceeding this level due to the acceptance of students on optional attendance.

As well, schools cannot be “limited” for certain grade ranges. The school will remain “closed” to Optional Attendance for 2021-22. Based on the current projected long-term enrolment at Armour Heights PS it is anticipated that it will be running at around 90% utilization into the long-term, so the status would be subject to the annual review.