

## 1. What is a Boundary Change Review?

Local schools have attendance areas defined by boundaries that are used to establish admission to a school's regular program. Boundaries between two schools can be changed to reduce overcrowding, utilize surplus space, or designate addresses to a closer school.

A Boundary Change Review 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 within a ten-year timeframe that allows for responsiveness and flexibility in a changing environment. It is a roadmap for the future that identifies studies that could lead to Accommodation Reviews.

To learn more about the LTPAS, please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Long-Term-Program-and-Accommodation-Strategy>

## 2. What are 'legacy' boundaries?

The TDSB, like most school boards in the province, uses attendance boundaries to determine admission to a school's regular program. For secondary schools, there is a single set of collegiate boundaries spanning the city that determines the 'local' school for each address. This is shown as the designated secondary school when a member of the public uses the 'Find Your School' query on the Board's website.

In addition to the collegiate boundaries, there are larger regional boundaries that were created at a time when students were streamed into vocational or commercial programs at technical and/or commercial schools, predominantly in the former Toronto Board of Education. These schools were offered as alternatives to the local collegiates, which would have provided an academic-oriented program.

In the 'Find Your School' query, these schools, where available to certain addresses, are shown as 'Technical Programming' and 'Commercial School'.

## 3. Why are you proposing to get rid of these boundaries?

Students in the TDSB are no longer streamed into academic or vocational programs. These boundaries are a relic of the practice of streaming and have become redundant.

Former vocational and commercial schools have evolved, and now offer a composite secondary program just like other schools in the TDSB.

With these boundaries still in-place there are additional layers of choice 'as of right' enjoyed by certain parts of the city while most addresses have a single designated secondary school. One of the Guiding Principles of the Board's Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy is to align the system to establish a single set of attendance boundaries that creates an equitable assignment of secondary schools.

#### **4. Which attendance area boundaries are proposed to be affected by this boundary change review?**

This review is focused on the technical and commercial boundaries for the following schools:

- Central Technical School (Ward 10, LC4) - Technical boundary
- Central Toronto Academy (Ward 10, LC4) - Commercial boundary
- Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute (Ward 15, LC4) - Technical boundary
- Western Technical and Commercial School (Ward 7, LC4) - Technical and commercial boundaries
- Northern Secondary School (Ward 11, LC1) - Technical and commercial boundaries
- Victoria Park Collegiate (Ward 14, LC2) - Technical boundary

#### **5. What happens when the boundaries are gone?**

Staff is proposing that Central Technical School, Central Toronto Academy, Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute and Western Technical-Commercial School become boundaryless secondary schools.

The intent is to eliminate the legacy boundaries formally associated with streaming students, and to create an equitable opportunity for all students to attend these schools and experience their rich and unique programming. This means that all students residing within the City of Toronto would be eligible to apply, not just those that reside within the legacy boundaries

Northern Secondary School and Victoria Park Collegiate Institute already have collegiate boundaries. These schools would continue to admit students residing within their respective collegiate boundaries and fill any remaining seats through the annual Out-of-Area Admissions process.

#### **6. When will the attendance area boundary changes take effect?**

Subject to Board approval, the boundary changes are proposed to be implemented for admission in September 2025, meaning that current Grade 7 students would be the first cohort subject to the new admissions protocol, if approved.

#### **7. Why don't you just create a collegiate boundary for these schools instead of getting rid of their regional boundaries?**

These schools are physically situated too close to an adjacent collegiate to create a new boundary. For example, Humberside CI and Western Technical-Commercial School are located approximately 700m apart, while Central Toronto Academy and Central Technical School are located within the collegiate boundary of Harbord CI, approximately 800m and 600m apart, respectively.

The Board's Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy contains a future boundary study to explore expanding the size of Northern SS' collegiate boundary to address enrolment growth in the Midtown area.

**8. If I have a student currently enrolled in one of these schools will their younger sibling be admitted, or will they have to apply like everyone else?**

Currently there is no recommendation to extend as-of-right admission to younger siblings of existing students. As information sharing with the public unfolds, staff will be available to receive feedback on what best meets the needs of attending families.

Staff will review and discuss all the feedback received through the public engagements and include the final recommendations in the report to the Board of Trustees in late February.

**9. Will any of the existing programs at these schools be impacted by these changes?**

No, the proposed changes only impact how students are admitted to the regular program. All other programs currently offered at these schools including Central Student Interest Programs and Special Education Programs are planned to continue, and their admission processes will remain unchanged.

**10. Will this change impact Gifted programs?**

No, the proposed changes only impact admission to the regular program. The admissions processes for Gifted programs will remain unchanged.

**11. Northern Secondary School and Victoria Park Collegiate Institute have collegiate boundaries, what do these changes mean for them?**

These two schools are different from the other four because of their collegiate boundaries.

Northern Secondary School has large regional technical and commercial boundaries and a very small collegiate boundary. Victoria Park has a large collegiate boundary and a very small technical boundary.

Many students in the regular program at Northern Secondary School are admitted through the school's large regional boundaries. If they are dissolved, admission into the regular program at Northern would be first extended to students residing within the school's collegiate boundary, and then seats would be filled through the Out-of-Area Admissions process. A cap on the number of Grade 9 students would be set each year in consultation with the school to mitigate overcrowding.

Victoria Park CI would be less affected by the proposed changes as most students admitted into the school's regular program reside within the collegiate boundary. The school would continue to admit a small number of students through the Out-of-Area Admissions process each year, subject to space availability.

Neither school would be included within the new application process that will be created for the four secondary schools without a collegiate boundary.

## **12. What about the technical courses offered at these schools? Will they continue?**

Yes, as former vocational schools many of these facilities offer unique facilities like specialized shops that may not be available in other schools. The Board is currently working on a strategy for technical programming across the city. As a result of this proposed change, students from across the City of Toronto with an interest in technological studies will now have improved access to these learning opportunities.

## **13. Some of the technical and commercial schools in other parts of the city have closed, is that the plan for these schools?**

No, there is not a plan to close any of these schools. Technical and/or commercial schools in other parts of the city were closed due to declining enrolment. This included all the former Business and Technical Institutes in Scarborough, Eastern Commerce CI and George Harvey CI.

The schools impacted by these proposed changes all have strong enrolment and viable programs for students.

## **14. How will students apply to these schools?**

Application to these schools will be facilitated by a separate module within PowerSchool. This module will be developed and implemented prior to the application cycle for the 2025-26 school year.

## **15. When will students be able to apply to these schools?**

Application to these schools would open in January of each year for the following September. The timeline for application would align with the Board's Out-of-Area Admissions application.

## **16. Will the Board provide transportation to these schools?**

Transportation to/from the four secondary schools without a boundary will not be provided. Students will be required to make their own way to school.

## **17. What happens if there are more applications than spaces available?**

If the number of applications exceeds the number of spaces available, then a random selection process will be used.

## **18. Will there be any priority for marginalized groups?**

Currently there is no recommendation to establish priority groups for admission into these schools. As information sharing with the public unfolds, staff will be available to receive feedback on what best meets the needs of marginalized groups.

Staff will review and discuss all the feedback received through the public engagements and include the final recommendations in the report to the Board of Trustees in late February



## Legacy Technical and Commercial Boundary Review Questions and Answers (as of December 28, 2023)

**19. I live close to one of these schools and my community sees it as our local school. Does this change mean that my child can no longer go there?**

The proposed change wouldn't exclude your child from potentially attending the school. The proposed change would eliminate the boundaries only, meaning that there is no 'as-of-right' or 'guaranteed' access; an application would now be required in order to attend. All addresses still have a local secondary school, which is determined by the collegiate boundary.