

## Q. 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 a Program Area Review, please visit:

[https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC\\_helpful\\_info\\_docs/TDS130%20ParentGuardian%20Fact-revised-final-print%20version-Nov.%2020%2C%202017.pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/TDS130%20ParentGuardian%20Fact-revised-final-print%20version-Nov.%2020%2C%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>

## Q: What is being proposed?

The proposal is that:

- Fisherville Sr PS becomes a middle school by adding Grade 6;
- Rockford PS becomes a JK to Grade 5 school. Regular Program Grade 6 students move into Fisherville Sr PS;
- Pleasant PS becomes a JK to Grade 5 school;
  - Regular Program Grade 6 students move into to Fisherville Sr PS or RJ Lang E & MS as based on address, and;
  - Middle French Immersion Grade 6 students move into Willowdale MS;



**Fisherville Sr PS, North-West Sec Alt Sch, Pleasant PS,  
RJ Lang E&MS, Rockford PS, and Willowdale MS  
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**Q: Why does this need to be done?**

For many years, Fisherville Sr PS (a Grade 7 and 8 school) has been under enrolled, which can impact breadth of program for students and does not represent a good use of space. The Fisherville Sr PS building also accommodates North West Secondary Alternative School and an Adult English as a Second Language program.

Fisherville Sr PS is the current pathway for students graduating from Rockford PS and Pleasant PS. RJ Lang E & MS, a nearby JK to Grade 8 school, also receives graduating students from Pleasant PS depending on their home address.

The current grade configuration at Rockford PS is inconsistent. Students in the Regular Program leave at the end of Grade 6, while students in the Early French Immersion program leave the school at the end of Grade 5.

**Q: When would the grade ranges change?**

If approved by Trustees, the change will happen for September 2026.

**Q: What would be done to ensure Grade 5 students transition successfully to a much larger middle school for Grade 6?**

Many schools within the TDSB have a JK to Grade 5 model. While preparing for the grade change we would look to these schools, including Rockford PS and Pleasant PS themselves as they already transition students to Willowdale MS and RJ Lang E&MS for Grade 7. Communications will be ongoing to ensure a smooth transition for Grade 5 school students into middle school.

**Q: Will there be any capital improvements made at the middle schools to accommodate more students?**

There is no funding available to make capital improvements for this grade change at these schools. There are sufficient program spaces at the middle schools.

**Q: Will there be bussing or TTC tickets be available?**

As stated in the Transportation of Students Policy (P020), intermediate students (i.e. grades 6 to 8) that live beyond a 3.2 km walk to school distance are eligible to receive TTC tickets. Also, TTC tickets may be available for students due to undue/financial hardship. More information can be found at the Board's [Student Transportation website](#).

**Q: Enrolments at these schools are shown to increase in the future because of proposed residential developments in the surrounding area. RJ Lang E & MS is projected to have the greatest growth. What can be done?**

TDSB closely monitors Toronto's population growth and plans for new residential developments throughout the City. We try to accommodate students from these developments at local schools. When there is no room, we look to apply many different strategies at area schools. Those strategies can include closing schools to Out-of-Area Admissions, adding portables, and ensuring programs at local schools serve only local students. As more information about these developments become know from the City, the TDSB will then use those strategies accordingly. The strategies are described in detail [here](#).

When those strategies have been exhausted, the TDSB will look to the Ministry of Education who takes a stewardship role to approve and fund all school construction in the Province, described in detail [here](#). All School boards across the Province identify their most urgent capital needs and submit business cases to the Ministry for these priority projects. The projects are ranked based on a priority, which takes into account factors like enrolment growth, or the merging of two or more schools into one new facility, and to what extent has the school board exhausted its accommodation strategies. The Ministry has limited funds available for school boards each year. Not all the capital projects submitted for consideration receive funding



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approval. If not approved by the Ministry in a given year, the not approved priority can return to the Priorities process in subsequent years.

**Q: Are there changes to the boundaries for secondary schools?**

No changes to the secondary boundaries are proposed.

**Q: Who makes the final decision and when will it be made?**

The final decision about the Program Area Review will be made by the Board of Trustees. The proposal will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on June 11, 2025, and the Board of Trustees meeting on June 18, 2025.

Parents and members of the public may present verbal or written submissions to the Planning and Priorities Committee. Please note those making delegations must register at least two days in advance of the meeting.

**Q: What function does the PART have if the Trustees make the final decision?**

The Program Area Review Team (PART) has an advisory role. The PART is made up of school council representatives from the schools involved, and it makes recommendations to inform staff and the Board of Trustees.

The Program Area Review process is the opportunity for the TDSB to hear directly from parents, guardians and the community about the proposal. Local Trustees are involved to hear the conversations firsthand but do not vote during the PART process.

Staff's report will be presented to the Board's Planning and Priorities Committee on June 11, 2025. At this meeting, there will be an opportunity to make written or verbal delegations. More information can be found at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/leadership/boardroom/delegations>.

**Q: Can the PART make recommendations other than the Staff Recommended Option?**

Yes, the Program Area Review Team may recommend other options that were not identified as the preferred option by staff. The PART will create a report with its own recommendations. The PART's report will be sent to staff who then review it. Based on information from the public meeting and from the PART's report, staff will create their own report. Staff will also comment



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on the PART's Report. The staff report (with the PART report appended) will be presented to the Board of Trustees for final decision making.

**Q: What is the best way for my thoughts to be heard?**

You could:

- Speak with your school Principal, Superintendent, or Local Trustee
- Make a delegation at the Board of Trustee Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on June 11, 2025. More information can be found at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/leadership/boardroom/delegations>
- Email your comments to [accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca)
- Call the Planning department at 416-394-(PLAN) 7526