

A Collaborative Approach to School and Community Safety

Update May 2024

Context

On December 9, 2022, Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Trustees received the report “*A Collaborative Approach to School and Community Safety - Report 1*”. The Action Plan contained within that report intended to address the issue of school and community violence. On February 1, 2023 the Board received *A Collaborative Approach to School and Community Safety Report 1 – Budget Implications* which specified additional investments associated with the Action Plan. On May 24, 2023 the Board received “*A Collaborative Approach to School and Community Safety Update - May 2023*”. This report provides an update to previous reports received by the Board.

The reports and the accompanying action plan were created in response to data which showed an increase in violent incidents impacting young people within the City of Toronto. Schools are a reflection of the communities within which they exist, and as such there was also an increase in violent incidents in TDSB schools. For the purpose of this report the Toronto Police Service has shared data through their portal related to violent crimes (shootings, stabbings, assaults and robberies). The analysis of the data focuses on the age range from 12-29 broken down into the following 3 demographic groups: youth (12-17 years), emerging adult (18-24 years), early adult (25-29 years). For the years 2022-23, there was a dramatic surge in the number of youth (12-17 years) accused of assault (624 in 2023; 454 in 2022; 284 in 2021). The number of youth who were victims of assault also increased (1205 in 2023; 1072 in 2022; 770 in 2021). There was also an increase in the number of youth accused of robbery (354 in 2023; 274 in 2022; 211 in 2021) and in the number of youth victims of robbery (338 in 2023; 254 in 2022; 178 in 2021). There was also an increase in the number of youth accused in stabbings (60 in 2023; 70 in 2022; 55 in 2021).

The increase in violent incidents in TDSB schools corresponds with Toronto Police Service data related to an increase in violent incidents impacting young people in the City of Toronto.

Based on the Ministry of Education *Policy and Program Memorandum 120: Reporting Violent Incidents to the Ministry of Education*, the term violent incident is defined as the occurrence of any one of the following:

1. possessing a weapon, including a firearm
2. physical assault causing bodily harm requiring medical attention
3. sexual assault

4. robbery
5. using a weapon to cause or to threaten to cause bodily harm to another person
6. extortion
7. hate and/or bias-motivated occurrences

Violent incidents that occur on school premises during school-run programs must be reported to the Ministry of Education, whether the incident was committed by a student of the school or whether it was committed by any other person.

Using this definition, the updated number of violent incidents on TDSB school premises since 2018-19 is as follows:

School Year	Reported to Ministry of Education
2018 - 19	283
2019 - 20	222
2020 - 21	78
2021 - 22	251
2022 - 23	407
2023 - April 2024	254

Updated data sets, including those from TDSB, the City of Toronto and Toronto Police Service will be utilized on an ongoing basis as a way of tracking progress and measuring success.

Action Plan Update

Significant progress has been made in many of the areas identified in the initial Action Plan including the hiring of staff, professional learning, the engagement of communities through partnership development, additional programming, support for schools and technology enhancements.

The Action Plan is framed by the Toronto District School Board's commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, human rights, equity, anti-racism and anti-oppression. The plan continues to evolve based on feedback and learnings garnered through implementation.

TDSB recognizes the role that systemic racism and other forms of oppression play in relation to school and community violence. TDSB staff will continue to engage in anti-racism, anti-oppression training and work closely with the Urban Indigenous Education Centre and the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement to address these issues as we strive to build caring, safe, inclusive, and welcoming schools and workplaces for all.

In light of a number of tragic and violent incidents at TDSB secondary schools, TDSB Legal Services retained King International Advisory Group (KIAG) and Turner Consulting Group (TCG) to simultaneously perform school safety reviews from two distinctive lenses at four secondary schools within the Board which included:

- David and Mary Thomson CI
- Victoria Park CI
- Woburn CI
- Birchmount Park CI

KIAG was retained to conduct an analysis of the school environments. This was not an investigation of the actual critical incidents that occurred at each school. The focus of this work was on assessing potential threats and evaluating the existing security measures in place.

TCG was tasked with conducting an analysis of school safety through the lens of school climate and equity. This supported an understanding of the social conditions that have given rise to the increase in violence incidents in schools and to identify what can be done to foster a more positive school climate and prevent further violence.

The public recommendations as well as the "status updates" on operationalizing these recommendations are ongoing.

Additional Investments

At the February 1, 2023 meeting of the Board, Trustees approved approximately \$2.7M in investments to support work being done in the following areas related to school safety: staff to provide direct support to students in schools, resource development and training and community engagement.

As noted in previous reports the newly hired staff have fulfilled a variety of roles including Teachers, Caring and Safe School Advisors, Child and Youth Counselors, Child and Youth Workers, School Based Safety Monitors and Social Workers.

These staff members have played a vital role in preventing, de-escalating and responding to incidents of violence. Working through trauma informed and healing engaging approaches they have supported students with behaviour management, conflict resolution, and the reinforcement and maintenance of academic, communication, social and personal management skills. Additionally, in order to reduce recidivism, staff have triaged students in youth justice detention facilities, TDSB students in adult detention facilities, TDSB students that are transitioned back into community and TDSB students not engaged in education or training. These students have had access to essential services including reintegration, education, housing support, mental health and well-being services, risk mitigation, violence prevention programming and cultural consideration of care programming.

The following positions have been added to the team:

- Two Caring and Safe School Advisors
- Two Teachers
- Eleven Child Youth Counselors
- Twenty Two School Based Safety Monitors
- Twelve Social Workers
- One Child Youth Workers
- Administrator Costs for Caring and Safe Schools (CSS) Audit

Additionally,

- A TDSB Centrally Assigned Principal (CAP) has been hired through funding provided by the City of Toronto-SafeTO initiative as part of an integrated multi-sector structure intended to address safety and wellness across the City of Toronto
- A Coordinator of Community Engagement Partnerships has been hired through funding obtained from a Transfer Payment Agreement through the Ministry of Education.

The work of the additional staff is focused on transforming learning for students in vulnerable circumstances, building strong relationships and partnerships within school communities to support student learning and well-being and providing more equitable access to services. More specifically, through innovative and community based practice, TDSB staff have provided support to justice-system involved students, students who are victims of crimes including violent crimes such as shootings, stabbings and sexual assaults, students in adult and youth detention facilities, tutoring and mentoring

opportunities outside of regular school hours, and employment and career training workshops and placements.

Compulsory Learning and Compliance Training

At the date of writing, 1247 school based staff have been trained in relation to TDSB Procedure (PR) 695 Threats to School Safety, PR 697 Promoting a Positive School Climate and in emergency preparedness. This has occurred through six on-line and in-person sessions since August of 2022. Additionally, 164 schools have had in-person learning connected to the above noted procedures during the 2022-23 school year. This training has been delivered by Toronto Police Constable Tony Santeramo and represents a school participation rate of approximately 99%.

This learning has also been extended to the Board of Trustees. Staff at administrative sites have also had the opportunity to participate in on-line emergency preparedness training and simulation emergency drills have begun at these sites.

Threat Assessment training has been provided to 35 TDSB staff. Additionally, 23 Caring and Safe School staff have been certified in Level 1 and Level 2 Threat Assessment training offered through the Center for Trauma Informed Practices.

Caring and Safe School staff have also been given access to and participated in Toronto Police Service Training related to Active Threat Response.

This learning will continue into the new school year based on revisions to the provincial framework for Police School Board Protocols and the subsequent finalization of the Board's local protocol which includes coterminous Boards connected to the Toronto Police Service.

Restorative Practice and Restorative Justice

Work continues towards the goal of having staff trained in Restorative Practice at every school in TDSB. This is happening through the work of Centrally Assigned Principals in CSS, Student Well-being and Innovation and Teaching and Learning in collaboration with the Student Equity Collective, the Urban Indigenous Education Centre, the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement and the TDSB RESTORES group.

In the last school year, there have been a total of nine training/certification sessions offered across TDSB. In total, 3020 staff have been trained to date.

Additional training sessions are planned before the end of the school year as well as in August of 2024.

These learning opportunities continue to be customized to address the needs of different job classifications e.g. Lunchroom Supervisors, School Administrators, Child and Youth Workers, Teachers, Child and Youth Workers, Designated Early Childhood Educators, Special Needs Assistants, Social Workers.

Audit Function and Expected Practices Guide for Caring and Safe Schools

The TDSB has introduced a Caring and Safe Schools audit process for all schools in the Board. The goal of this undertaking is to support schools to the greatest extent possible through a model which draws specific attention to three areas: consistent with Ministry of Education (MOE) expectations in CSS: school climate, physical plant and compliance to the Board's policies and procedures. Currently in the pilot phase, the audit process has been undertaken at six schools with at least one in each Learning Centre. The learnings from this phase will be integrated into the process to create a model which will enable schools to improve their practices while heightening system accountability.

The audit process is built around the Expected Practices Guidelines for the School Safety Audit and the Promotion of Positive School Climate. The Guidelines have three specific purposes. First, they are a tool used to support compliance with Safe Schools expectations set out in the Education Act and accompanying Policy/Program Memorandums as well as compliance with all related TDSB policies and procedures.

Secondly, the Guidelines serve as a model for schools to follow when creating their school-based Caring and Safe Schools Plans as well as acting as a preparation tool for the audit process itself.

Finally, the Guidelines provide an outline and explain each of the five steps in the School Safety Audit Process that all TDSB schools will participate in. These five steps are;

- i. Sharing of Expectations
- ii. Preparation Visit
- iii. Audit Visit
- iv. Follow Up Report
- v. Post Audit Follow Up

Implementation of this process will proceed more widely across TDSB schools beginning in the fall of 2024.

City of Toronto

TDSB has increased its collaboration with the City of Toronto and multi-sector and community partners through its support of the implementation of SafeTO, the City of Toronto Community Safety & Well-being Plan adopted by the Board of Trustees in June of 2022.

As noted previously, the City of Toronto has invested in a Centrally Assigned Principal who is embedded in the Toronto Office to Prevent Violence to assist in the development and implementation of a holistic, comprehensive multi-sector violence reduction plan. The CAP works alongside individuals from the City of Toronto and strategic partners who collaborate with Administrators, Caring and Safe Schools staff, Social Workers and other relevant TDSB departments to mobilize holistic violence prevention, intervention, response and recovery efforts that promote safer schools and student well-being. Multi-sector work planning has laid the foundation for:

- Enhanced protocols development that have been utilized to mediate escalating situations and strengthen responses to critical incidents with the support of City of Toronto and community resources
- Advanced Analytics and Learning – The City of Toronto has invested in a TDSB Research Coordinator to work with the SafeTO Collaborative Analytics and Learning Environment to ensure that data and evidence informs multi-sector efforts to prevent violence
- Relationship development and the coordination of community partnerships to better support school administrators in leveraging community expertise to respond to emerging situations
- A methodology for mobilizing programs and investments to reduce violence through child and youth violence prevention, child and family development, safer spaces, life stabilization and opportunities, education and community justice and policing.

The continued implementation of the Toronto Office to Prevent Violence will happen throughout the remainder of 2024.

Examples of early outcomes of the integrated work include:

Action	Explanation
School & Community Safety & Well-being Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare for back to school, 700 administrators from both TDSB and Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) came together with representatives from the City of Toronto, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Police Service to build relationships and plan violence reduction initiatives.
Integrated Safety Coordination Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDSB's Caring and Safe Schools and Social Work teams work with City of Toronto and other partners to collaboratively develop place-based approaches to prevent violence.
Toronto Northwest Youth Violence Prevention Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance relationships between City of Toronto and Provincially funded youth violence prevention, justice and outreach programs and schools, a violence prevention forum focused on Toronto Northwest engaged over 100 principals, Caring and Safe Schools and Social Work staff in relationship building and planning. To ensure the momentum continues and to support engagement and planning in other areas, a working group consisting of Youth Outreach Worker Leads from the City of Toronto and Province, TDSB and TCDSB will convene to document joint work plans through the Toronto Office to Prevent Violence
Non-violent Crisis Intervention Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 120 School Based Safety Monitors' (SBSM) were trained on PA days. Training will continue over the coming year.
Community Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Healing Project and Community Peers Elevating and Extending Resources and Supports (P.E.E.R.S.) supports development of mental health literacy and resiliency in youth who have been exposed to community violence. Both programs have bow been implemented in some TDSB schools

<p>Restorative Practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the work TDSB is already doing in this area staff are working with TCDSB, the City of Toronto and community partners to build training capacity.
<p>Investment Integration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Toronto invested \$2.7M in community-based Agencies through a Youth Violence Prevention Grant. The City of Toronto adapted the criteria to ensure that the programs partner with TDSB. The CAP is building relationships between these programs and schools within the areas that they serve. • TO Wards Peace is a violence interruption program that is working in the Toronto Northwest and recently expanded to Scarborough and is prioritizing TDSB schools • TDSB is working with investment partners including Jays Care to maximize available resources from the City of Toronto and other partners to better support students
<p>Violence De-escalation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated multi-sector violent threat risk assessments are being used to inform de-escalation and prevention approaches at schools supported by community partners
<p>Schools and Businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the SafeTObia pilot to enhance relationships with businesses in high traffic areas around schools to ensure community safety and create opportunities for students
<p>Improving Student Safety on Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with multi-sector partners to better support student safety on TTC
<p>Scarborough Family Well-being Pilot</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Family Well-being pilot program applies a holistic approach in service to parents, caregivers and extended family members that support Scarborough’s most vulnerable youth to better navigate and connect with services and pro-social opportunities in their communities. The model works to build family confidence, raise participation levels,

	build resiliency, and improve youth outcomes through a healthy family and community approach. The goal of the pilot is to build upon success in Scarborough and expand this model through the entire city.
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Programs and Partnerships

The TDSB has offered sessions of programming that have reached and impacted more than 4500 TDSB students and families across 46 locations, including schools, community centers and places of worship. This programming has been offered outside of regular school hours including after school, weekends and holiday breaks. The foundational principle for this work has been to enhance student joy through engagement by working in ways that value community engagement. This engagement has been most meaningful because it has activated the community based leadership of those we intend to serve. Providing recreational programming, tutoring and mentorship and actively involving community members in program design and implementation has led to initiatives that are culturally relevant, responsive and have a dedicated commitment to sharing best practices which meet the unique needs of the participants.

Through collaboration with 15 community organizations, agencies, and faith groups, a network of support has been cultivated aimed at fostering the growth and development of students in literacy, numeracy and foundational learning skills through innovative, teaching and learning practices. Through employment training and certification workshops, participants have been offered avenues to explore their interests, develop essential skills, and pursue newly found aspirations. This wide-reaching initiative has also helped young people to access employment opportunities while providing nutritious meals in ways that address food security.

This initiative has resulted in 1051 sessions totaling 4051 hours of desperately needed programming which would not have existed in its absence.

Feedback collected from student participants for reporting purposes has shown the following:

- 99% of student participants reported enjoying programming.
- 99% of students, caregivers, parents, guardians, reported satisfaction with the program staff supporting their children.
- 98% of students showed an improvement in their engagement, confidence and/or attitude as a result of programming.

These opportunities have been possible because of the intentional collaboration of many Board departments and because of the advocacy of the Board in acquiring a Ministry of Education grant for \$1.8M. This funding expired at the end of March of 2024. Continuation of this essential programming which has serviced thousands of TDSB students and families will not be possible without a renewal of the financial commitment from the Ministry of Education. The Board has no other funding source to support this work. Staff is currently exploring opportunities for additional investments through corporate and other partners such as the one with Agnico Eagle Mines which has contributed \$350 000 towards these programs.

Local Safety Tables

Local Safety Tables have been introduced as another vehicle towards the creation of meaningful partnerships between schools and local community agencies.

These tables were established with a mandate to support the building of safe learning environments with the support of the students, staff and parents/guardians/caregivers along with stakeholders in the community including but not limited to community agencies, faith groups, police services, recreational services, cultural groups and representatives from all levels of government.

As a follow up to the update which was received by the Board on February 1, 2023, Local Safety Tables have been established in each of the four Learning Centres, according to community need and priority considerations related to student discipline data, SafeTO - City of Toronto data, Toronto Police Services data and qualitative and quantitative data collected by Caring and Safe Schools and other staff. Each Safety Table reflects unique circumstances (both current and/or historic), includes interested and relevant community partners, and works toward outcomes that are specific to the school communities in those areas. Staff have noted areas with robust community supports, and others where these are more scarce. In all the tables, new connections are being made between schools, and their local communities, further enhancing the TDSB's commitments as signatories to the *City of Toronto SafeTO: A Community Safety & Well-being Plan*.

Some tables are solidifying next steps, and others are exploring possibilities. As work continues on these tables, the benefits of engaging in discussions about wraparound supports, collaboration on common interests, and the schools in these areas becoming another support structure to serve greater community needs are being recognized. Generally speaking, the establishment of these tables has been positive in regards to the benefits they provide for TDSB students, families and communities.

Some of the actions of TDSB Safety Tables to date have included planning of community walks, spring community service fairs to showcase free and/or low cost summer youth programming opportunities and community supports, development of plans to address community food insecurity, delivery of youth employment fairs, and community outreach to bolster the number of identity affirming TDSB partners.

Since September of 2023, the newly-created Centrally Assigned Principal of System Navigation has assumed greater responsibility for the coordination of Local Safety Tables.

Expert Panel

The Expert Reference Panel on School Safety and well-being with representation from across different sectors was created to put forward a list of recommendations that affirm the commitment of TDSB and community partners to address school and community safety and student well-being. The group took an integrated and data driven approach which intends to be responsive to the needs of students and communities. The recommendations of the group were as follows:

Areas of Focus	Recommendation
Expanding Caring Adults	<p>Requirement for each school across the Board to have a publicly posted logic model of Caring and Safe School Committee activities to ensure engagement, transparency, and accountability. This should include an annual completion of a reporting tool to list all members of the Safe and Caring Schools Team including parents and students. All of this should be a mandatory addendum to be submitted as part of School Improvement Plans for Superintendent review.</p> <p>Ensure each and every school across the Board has a staff lead who holds responsibility for wellness and safety. Time to be devoted in each staff meeting for the lead to review resources and share updates.</p>
Student Voice and Programming	Pilot an east and west side of the TDSB advisory circle composed of students that have been impacted and involved in incidents of school and/or community violence. These two circles should be connected to a TDSB Local Safety Table. A critical path should be developed by TDSB central staff that outlines how these sorts of circles can expand across TDSB Local Safety Tables upon completion of the pilot.
Investing in Security Infrastructure	Send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a province-wide audit on minimum safety standards for schools across the province.
Supporting Positive	Expand the CAMH led Coping Power program into an east and west school

<p>Conflict Resolution</p>	<p>pilot site.</p> <p>Continued focus on “upstream” interventions, and further explore opportunities for alignment and cohesion amongst inter-institutional practices. An example of this would be working with community partners to create a greater uptake of Restorative Practices from JK-12 across the TDSB to maintain the commitment made in the first Collaborative Approach to School Safety Report from Dec 2022 where Restorative Practices would be utilized across all schools in the TDSB. It is important that this training be developed with Indigenous partners from the Urban Indigenous Education Centre (UIEC), City of Toronto Indigenous Affairs Office and community agencies.</p> <p>Monitoring of implementation would be part of the reporting that schools will engage in for Caring and Safe School bi-annual audits. Achieve a minimum of 80+% completion rate of training in nonviolent crisis intervention for SBSMs and Secondary Vice Principals by November 2025.</p>
<p>Enhancing Caring, Inclusive and Safe School Cultures</p>	<p>Continued expansion and engagement of local TDSB Community Safety Tables, with an aim to foster a deepened culture of caring, inclusivity and community safety.</p>
<p>Providing Ongoing Emergency Preparedness Training</p>	<p>Adopt a board wide strategy for the review and updating of the current TDSB emergency preparedness plan with the aim to enhance the plan with further culturally appropriate and trauma informed practices. A suggested framework is that of Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) which entails:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stage One – Initial data collection and immediate interventions 2. Stage Two – Risk evaluation for moderate-to-high-risk situations 3. Stage Three – Data-driven and trauma-informed intervention
<p>Increasing Student and Community Engagement & Intergovernmental Partnerships</p>	<p>Create surveys to assess after-school programs and extracurricular program needs of schools within six months of adoption. This would then lead to a gap analysis conducted to better redress the under-serving of communities.</p> <p>Through a partnership between the Toronto District School Board and the City of Toronto, expand job opportunities for youth with a 15% increase of job placement including opportunities to work with the TDSB, City of Toronto and Expert Reference Panel partners within twelve months of adoption. Explore how collaborating with City of Toronto Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) can help lead to increased job placements for youth in the seventy-five SafeTO designated middle and high schools.</p>

The Expert Reference Panel has put forward a set of recommendations that will improve safety and well-being outcomes for students across the TDSB, particularly for those that have been most disproportionately impacted by violence in their school communities. It is through this sort of collaborative, multi-sector approach that optimal conditions for student safety, well-being, and learning can be created.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Caring and Safe Schools team, along with the SafeTO Toronto Office to Prevent Violence, staff have already started to mobilize actions and finalizing work plans in service of the Expert Reference Panel recommendations. These work plans will have clear deliverables, and accompanying metrics for determining success. These plans will be completed by staff by the end of June 2024.

Toronto Police Service

TDSB continues to work with Toronto Police Service (TPS) in ways which promote and maintain school and community safety. Over the past year, the central focus of this work has been strengthening relationships between schools and local police divisions. As a follow up to the SafeTO summit in May of 2023 which brought school administrators and TPS Division Commanders together, the City of Toronto hosted the *Strengthening School Community Safety and Well-being Symposium* in August of 2023. This event was attended by approximately 1000 participants representing TDSB, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Toronto Police Service, the City of Toronto as well as staff representatives from the Toronto Transit Commission and Toronto Community Housing Corporation. The purpose of this event was to promote interaction between school administrators and multi-sector partners in preparing for the 2023-2024 school year, to promote networking and partnership development, to support the learning of school administrators related to community violence trends over the summer months and to build the capacity of school administrators in the areas of public health, violence reduction, policing, community healing, online trends and community safety. A significant portion of the day was dedicated to school administrators meeting with local police division commanders as a way of developing positive working relationships. The symposium will return by popular demand at the beginning of 2024-2025 school year.

The Board continues to benefit from the expertise and leadership demonstrated by TPS in the area of emergency preparedness in dealing with threats to school and community safety. Annually, TPS staff train thousands of TDSB staff in this critically important area in a highly effective and efficient manner at no cost to the Board. Additionally, Board staff have been granted access to subsidized Threat Assessment Professional Certification Training as well as Active Threat Training hosted by TPS.

TDSB continues to work closely with TPS on matters which necessitate police involvement.

Data and Technology

Security Camera System Upgrades

Camera systems are one part of the larger security system infrastructure at schools and sites across the TDSB. In May of 2023, the Board approved \$10.9M to replace outdated video equipment which in many instances was outdated, no longer functioning or could not be replaced.

Installation of these camera systems was approved by the Board in May of 2023 after site selection criteria were brought forward.

Installation was initially completed at two pilot schools Jarvis Collegiate Institute and Victoria Park Secondary School as part of informing next steps. Since that time installation has also been completed or is nearing completion at the following schools: Weston Collegiate Institute, Victoria Park Secondary School, Emery Collegiate Institute/Emery Edvance, Woburn Collegiate Institute, Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute and Western Technical and Commercial School.

The next phase of this project began in May of 2024 with installation moving forward at the following schools: Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute, John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, Northview Heights Secondary School, Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute, Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute, Central Technical School and Westview Centennial Secondary School. These schools will be completed in July of 2024.

Installation will continue until all middle and secondary schools have been updated.

Training will be provided to school based staff to facilitate optimal use of the new equipment. Additionally, PR 694 which directs the use of camera equipment in TDSB will be updated to align with the new systems and all current legislation. An important element of this procedure is the engagement of school councils, students, parents, caregivers and staff to help guide local implementation at local schools.

Additionally, staff have engaged an external security consultant to provide advice on enhancing multiple platforms of security infrastructure (e.g. card access, signage, communication systems) across all schools and sites.

The Student Safety Reporting Feature

This feature was developed through close collaboration between the Caring and Safe Schools and Information Technology teams. It allows for students to report safety concerns in real time through a feature which is embedded within the School Connects application. This feature was developed and piloted in 10 schools (8 secondary, 2 middle schools) beginning in November 2023. Schools have been supported by a Steering Committee in the areas of communication, planning and troubleshooting. The feedback collected through the first phase of implementation has resulted in changes and upgrades as the pilot extended to another 25-30 schools in April of 2024. This reporting feature is intended to be in place for all schools in fall of 2024.

Resource Implications

The Board has extended \$2.7M in investments into the 2024-2025 school year budget for the continuation of work being done related to school and community safety.

Without a renewal of MOE investment, programming initiatives being run in partnership with community organizations will not continue as TDSB currently does not have the resources to sustain these.

At present, existing resources are being used to fund all other areas of the Action Plan.

Creating safer schools goes beyond the work of any single school Board. It is the collective responsibility of all levels of government, communities and Greater Toronto Area school boards working together. This collaboration is at the heart of the work that TDSB is engaged in. At TDSB, creating positive school climates and making schools and workplaces safe, welcoming and inclusive is a part of everyone's role regardless of position, title or affiliation. This will happen when we create and sustain positive relationships with all internal and external partners so that students and staff feel valued, heard, and cared for irrespective of their identity, social location, or postal code.

While preliminary data indicates that some progress is being made, current efforts must be maintained and enhanced to achieve short term success while also continuing to address the systemic issues which are often the root causes of community violence which finds its way into schools.