



Development of a Specialized Schools and Programs Policy: Phase 2

To: Governance and Policy Committee

Date: 8 January, 2020

Report No.: 01-20-3799

Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Policy Development Work Plan for the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy, as presented in this report, be approved.

Context

In June 2019, the Board of Trustees approved a policy review work plan for the Optional Attendance Policy (P013). This draft Policy proposes the removal of certain sections in the policy including alternative schools as well as specialized programs. As alternative schools are addressed in the Alternative Schools Policy (P062) and admission to specialized schools and programs is outlined in the Admission to Specialized Schools and Programs Procedure (PR612), staff also recommends that further clarity will be provided to the TDSB community through the development of a Specialized Schools and Programs Policy. The new Policy will be created to mirror the Alternative Schools Policy, in which clear definitions and policy directions for Specialized Programs will be established.

The Work Plan for development of the Policy (see Appendix A) is provided for Committee's consideration and approval. The Work Plan is supplemented by the preliminary draft provisions (see Appendix B), which are based on legislative requirements and operational requirements, consistent with the best practices of other school boards including Peel DSB and Chicago Public Schools (see Appendix C).

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Subject to the Governance and Policy Committee and Board of Trustees directions, the draft Policy will be prepared in accordance with the Policy Development Work Plan and subsequently presented to the Governance and Policy Committee for consideration. The document will then be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and final approval.

Resource Implications

No additional resources will be required for implementation of the Policy.

Communications Considerations

The Policy will be communicated in accordance with the Policy Development Work Plan.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

- Optional Attendance Policy (P013)
- Alternative Schools Policy (P062)
- Optional Attendance Procedure (PR545)
- Alternative Schools Procedure (PR584)
- Admission to Specialized Schools and Programs (PR612)

Appendices

- Appendix A: Policy Development Work Plan
- Appendix B: Draft Provisions – Specialized Schools and Programs Policy
- Appendix C: Scan of Selected Ontario School Boards and Other Jurisdictions
- Appendix D: P046

From

Manon Gardner, Associate Director, School Operations & Service Excellence, at 416-394-2041 or manon.gardner@tdsb.on.ca.