



Returning to School: A Guide to the Safe Reopening of the TDSB

To: Special Meeting

Date: 4 August, 2020

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Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the *Returning to School: A Guide to the Safe Reopening of the TDSB* report be received.

Context

As we look ahead to September, we know that school will look quite different as a result of continued efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. TDSB staff have been actively planning for the return to school by considering all possibilities, while ensuring that student and staff well-being and safety remains the top priority.

On July 30, the Ministry of Education confirmed the following models for return to school in September:

Elementary (Kindergarten to Grade 8): All students (inclusive of Special Education and French Immersion/Extended French Programs) will attend school 5 days per week,

with one cohort for the full day, including recess and lunch. Enhanced health and safety protocols will be in place.

Secondary: Adapted model – Students attend school every day, in smaller class sizes of approximately 15 students, in either the morning or afternoon, with learning continuing at home the other half of the day. Schools will operate on a quadmester schedule.

To plan for the return to school, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has formed an Integrated Return to School and Work Steering Committee and several sub-committees.

The following report is a comprehensive guide to the TDSB's plans for safely reopening our schools in September using the models confirmed by the Ministry on July 30. This guide was developed by TDSB experts from areas including health and safety, facilities, teaching and learning, special education, communications, business and operations, employee services and more. In addition, the guide was informed by consultations with union and federation partners, students, staff, parents/guardians, Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Education.

Although confirmation of the models was only received on July 30, the *Returning to School: A Guide to the Safe Reopening of the TDSB* provides significant details in a number of important areas. In the days and weeks ahead, a more complete and comprehensive guide will be developed that will be shared with staff, students, parents, education partners and the community so that everyone knows what to expect and how to prepare for back to school.

Resource Implications

Summary of COVID-19 Impacts

The chart below provides a summary of the COVID-19 impacts to the TDSB's budget. Until further information is known and school boards gain experience from returning to school in the fall, staff have only included COVID-19 costs for the first four months of the year. Staff are hopeful that COVID-19 related budget impacts will gradually diminish as virus infection rates continue to decline.

As part of the Ministry's return to school announcement on July 30, additional funding of approximately \$309M provincially was also announced. To date, the board-by-board allocation has not been released by the Ministry.

Summary of COVID-19 Impacts

Item	Amount
Permit Revenue Decrease - 4-month impact	\$2.3M
Decrease in International Students – Full year impact	\$4.4M
Technology Requirements – Full year impact	\$4.9M
PPE – 4-month impact	\$1.5M
Facilities Cost - Caretaking and Supplies – 4-month impact	\$4.2M
Health and Safety Department increases – Full year impact	\$0.3M
Special Education – Full year impact	\$2.1M
Professional Development – Full year impact	\$2.6M
Interpretation and Translation Services - 4-month impact	\$0.2M
Total	\$22.5M

Communications Considerations

Communications is a critical component of engaging and educating all stakeholder groups (staff, students, parents/guardians and the community) in the plans for September. The Government, Public and Community Relations Department has developed a comprehensive communication plan to support timely communications to all stakeholders through multiple channels (email, website, social media, school communications, etc.) that will be supported by translation services.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Not applicable.

Appendices

- Appendix A: *Returning to School: A Guide to the Safe Reopening of the TDSB*

From

Carlene Jackson, Interim Director of Education at carlene.jackson@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-397-3190.

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

Craig Snider, Interim Associate Director, Business Operations and Service Excellence at craig.snider@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-397-3188.

Kathy Witherow, Associate Director, Leadership, Learning, and School Improvement at kathy.witherow@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-397-3069.

Steve Shaw, Executive Officer, Facility Services and Planning at steve.shaw@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-393-8780.

Andrew Gold, Executive Superintendent, Employee Services at Andrew.Gold@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-397-3726.