

Director of Education – Toronto District School Board

Search Criteria - September 10, 2020

The sections for the Search Criteria are:

1. Role Opportunity
2. Role Priorities
3. Career Experience & Accomplishments
4. Education & Professional Development
5. Leadership Attributes & Personal Values

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1. Role Opportunity:

Key Role Attractors Include the Following:

Evolve, implement, and lead learning innovation
Serve a diverse and complex school board and city
Working with multiple stakeholders and people in the community
Lead a complex/large public multi-educational institution/platform (K12 and Adult programs)
Oversee a large workforce/budget, multiple facilities

2. Role Priorities:

Top Priorities for the Director of Education – First 18 months (in no order):

Continue to lead the Board through its Covid-19 planning and safe return to school.
Continue to lead effectively to achieve greater equity within in the Board; build on the Board's focus on inclusion, equity and anti-black racism; demonstrate a deep commitment to unpacking race, gender identity, ability and socioeconomically diverse communities and ability to apply an intersectional framework in relation to the multiple sources of oppression; leading to systemic change to combat racism and discrimination.
Continue to ensure academic excellence, transformation and achievement by our students through the implementation of effective educational and learning practices, including the evolution of remote learning pedagogy (e.g., distance education/digital/e-learning, outdoor education etc.), as well as a commitment to support all students with special education needs.
Continue to oversee, update, maintain momentum, and implement the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) including the "Vision for Learning" plan.
Maintain and improve the public's confidence and trust in the Board; build, positive relationships and engagement with parents and community partners.
Maintain/develop TDSB shared leadership approach, the Leadership Capacity Plan and prioritizing staff succession planning and morale.
Implement the new internal and external communications strategy.
Lead research in the service of evidence-based decision-making.

3. Career Experience & Accomplishments:

The ideal candidate for the Director of Education should possess the following experience and background (Top 7 are in order of priority):

Demonstrated and “meaningful” leadership and track-record in equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-Black racism, anti-oppression programs, Indigenous education, LGBTQ and related policies, and initiatives.
Engaging, building, and maintaining relationships/partnerships with multiple and diverse community members, parents, students, trustees, staff, unions/federations and government.
Leading a complex organization, multiple employees, and staff at all levels.
Demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement, service excellence, strategic planning and moving complex projects forward.
Serving the needs of children and youth in ensuring their mental and physical well-being.
Professional knowledge and demonstrated leadership/respect in academic instruction and achievement; (public K-12, or possibly at the college system level); “global mindset” with the vision and expertise to oversee transformation of all forms/models of learning innovation and instruction including remote/digital/e-learning, outdoor education, etc.
An understanding and championing for disability-related issues especially in identifying and removing barriers for adults, children/youth education environments and the application of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Additional important criteria that was provided from the stakeholder consultations:

Demonstrated experience with funding models for public education and/or a large publicly funded organization; advocating with governments at all levels for the needs of a strong public education system.
Demonstrated experience in administration, fiscal management/finance (understanding of capital and operating budgets), operations management including oversight of facilities.
Experience managing, motivating, engaging large staff/employee teams at all levels to success, implementing leadership development and succession planning programs; creating a positive/unifying work environment.
Focused orientation for utilizing data driven models and metrics for decision making/standards.
Direct experience in working in a similar large urban centre with a highly diverse population.
An orientation for implementing ideas and complex projects through completion.
Proven commitment to good governance, risk management, compliance and establishing, working with and maintaining positive relationships with an elected board or similar body.
An excellent communicator with the ability to engage at all levels with a holistic message that is clear, genuine and understood; knowledge of a second language or multi-lingual would be an asset.

4. Education & Professional Development:

- A minimum Master's level education and ideally post-graduate work, doctorate or similar and relevant certifications
- Demonstrated commitment to on-going learning and personal development
- Participation/leadership in public speaking and thought leadership

5. Leadership Attributes & Personal Values:

The Director of Education will embrace and be an advocate for the TDSB [Equity Leadership Competencies](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Equity/Equity-as-a-Leadership-Competency) (<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Equity/Equity-as-a-Leadership-Competency>)

The ideal candidate will also possess the following leadership attributes and personal values (in no order):

Building Trust/Transparency
Collaboration
Communication/Listening/Public Speaking
Empathy/Relationship Builder/Seeks Consensus
Intellectual Curiosity
Personal Integrity/Accountability
Political Acuity
Problem Solving/Inquisitive/Deals with Complexity
Resilience
Vision Builder/Strategic Orientation

Other:

Meets Ministry criteria in terms of qualifications as Supervisory Officer under the [Education Act](#) and/or Minister's confirmation that the person to be appointed is eligible for the position

Link to [The Ontario Leadership Framework](#)