



## **Auditor General of Ontario – Curriculum Audit (December 2020) Update**

**To:** Audit Committee

**Date:** 22 March, 2021

**Report No.:** 03-21-4049

### **Strategic Directions**

- Transform Student Learning
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Auditor General of Ontario – Curriculum Audit (December 2020) Update be received.

### **Context**

#### **Summary:**

In January 2020, the Office of Auditor General of Ontario (OAGO) began a Curriculum Audit with the objective to assess whether the Ministry of Education (EDU) has effective systems and processes to develop current, relevant and developmentally appropriate curriculum; and, in conjunction with School Boards, oversee consistent curricula implementation across the province and assess students against curricula expectations consistently across the province.

To assess the implementation and assessment processes at the school level, OAGO engaged four school boards, including Toronto District School Board, Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, District School Board of Ontario North East and Near North District School Board. In addition, key stakeholders were surveyed and, working with various unions, a survey was issued to teachers in the province with over 8,000 responses being received.

Although the audit primarily focused on EDU, there were two recommendations (#4&8) put forth for which TDSB provided responses. The recommendations centered on Principal or Vice-Principal review of annual long-range plans, including a sample of

lesson plans (#4) and tracking textbooks purchased by schools to determine if bulk purchases at the Board level would lower overall costs (#8). EDU will be responding to all other OAGO recommendations.

### **Detailed Findings:**

In Ontario, EDU is responsible for developing the curriculum to be taught to students and assessment policies to be used by teachers and educators. Each school board is responsible for ensuring schools are appropriately implementing the curriculum and assessment policies. Principals are responsible for supervising and evaluating teachers' performance in both providing the appropriate instruction for their students and assessing and evaluating student work and progress. Teachers are responsible for developing appropriate instructional strategies to help students achieve curriculum expectations.

Of the 15 recommendations, seven related to school boards, however only two required responses as indicated above. EDU will be responding to the remaining recommendations. Observations included:

- EDU and school boards do not have a formal oversight process to assess if curricula are being consistently implemented across the Province.
  - One recommendation applicable to school boards (#4).
- Training on implementation of new or revised curriculum is not reaching enough teachers in a timely manner.
  - EDU released new/revised curriculum with little lead time for school board implementation, the OAGO found that four of five recently released curricula, lead time ranged from 3 months to 10 days before the start of school.
- Many textbooks are old and contain outdated material and / or information no longer relevant to students.
  - EDU maintains a list of approved textbooks for most subject and courses (Trillium List) and educational resources (EduGAINS), however EDU and school boards do not track utilization of textbooks.
  - One recommendation applicable to school boards (#8).
- EDU and school boards do not provide the necessary oversight to ensure consistent assessment of students.
- EDU did not provide clear expectations for remote instruction.
- 2019/2020 curriculum not fully implemented, leaving learning gaps that will need to be addressed.
- Inconsistent assessment and evaluation of student learning during school shutdowns.

### **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

TDSB provided responses to address the two recommendations with implementation to be ready for the 2021 school year.

## **Resource Implications**

No additional resource implications are anticipated to address the two recommendations brought forth by the OAGO.

## **Communications Considerations**

Included in public minutes.

## **Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)**

P022 Early Learning and Care, P038 Transforming Student Learning in Literacy and Mathematics, P040 Accountability for Student Achievement, O.Reg 361/10 and Auditor General Act of Ontario are applicable.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Auditor General of Ontario Curriculum Audit Report

## **From**

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