



REPORT TO

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### EXTERNAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN THE TCDSB - POLICY S.19 FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATE

*"An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." Proverbs 18:15*

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#### INFORMATION REPORT

**Vision:**

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

**Mission:**

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*



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Chief Financial Officer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides the annual list of approved external research and a summary of findings or previous research projects received as of December 31, 2019.

Appendix A lists applications that were approved in 2018-2019.

Appendix B provides a description of finding from external research approved in 2015-2016.

*The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 40 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. According to TCDSB Policy S.19 Research Conducted in the TCDSB, a list of approved external research is to be reported annually to the Board.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. TCDSB Policy S.19 Research Conducted in the TCDSB, 1988, was revised and approved on May 30, 2013. It was renamed “*External Research Conducted in the TCDSB*” as it addresses requests by external institutions, organizations and individuals.
2. As per TCDSB Policy S.19, each year, there is an annual report to Board outlining the studies that were approved during the previous year. In February 2016, there was a board motion to include a summary of previous external research findings, where available.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

1. Any external institution, organization or individual who wants to conduct research activities in the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) must submit an application to the Board for approval. This includes people or agencies that plan to recruit research participants from schools and conduct the research outside of TCDSB premises.

2. Applications are submitted to the Director of Education and are reviewed by the Research Review Committee; there are four deadlines each year. Proposals are evaluated based on scholarship, educational merit, research design, demands from school, and they are vetted within the framework of Catholic Values and the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP).
3. In accordance with professional standards, it is an expectation that all research is conducted in a manner that ensures confidentiality and anonymity of individuals and schools. Any participation in an approved external research initiative by school staff, parents and students is voluntary and must include informed consent.
4. During the 2018-2019 school year, 16 applications were approved. These studies were in various areas including, mental health and well-being, 21C learning, literacy, numeracy, second language education, health and safety, and special education. This projects represented research from universities, public and health health agencies. Appendix A provides a summary of approved applications.
5. It is an expectation that upon study completion, all external researchers provide a copy of any report they write with their findings. Reports are shared with staff within the Teaching and Learning Collaborative (Curriculum, Leadership and Innovation; Student Success; Safe Schools; Special Services; Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education). The timeframe for external research and subsequent reporting frequently extends beyond the school year. Often the research takes place in multiple locations, some studies may be examining long-term outcomes, and there are times when researchers are unable to complete the work as anticipated, due to funding limitations or other disruptions. Appendix B provides a summary of the findings from external research that was approved during the 2015-2016 school year.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

An annual summary report on external research will be presented to the Board.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.