



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

NEW POLICY ON AGE-APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT: CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM SUPPORTS

“And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” (Gn 1:20)

Created, Draft

January 27, 2020

First Tabling

February 11, 2020

Review

Linda Maselli-Jackman, Superintendent of Education, Special Services
Vanessa Cocco, Andrea Coke, Dr. Marie-Josée Gendron, Rachelina Macchia, Dr. Joseph Mirabella, Don Reid, and Peter Stachiw - Special Services Chiefs
Dr. Marina Vanayan, Senior Co-ordinator, Educational Research

RECOMMENDATION 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.



Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

D. Koenig
Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

L. Noronha
Associate Director of Facilities,
Business and Community
Development, and
Chief Financial Officer

Executive Summary

This report recommends the adoption of a new policy on age-appropriate placement: curriculum/program supports.

This new policy has been created in response to a motion, carried by the Board of Trustees, which is intended to address parental requests for grade-level acceleration or retention. While the Toronto Catholic District School Board routinely engages the Ministry-mandated practice of the age-appropriate placement of students, it finds itself, from time to time, needing to address parental requests for grade-level acceleration or retention. This new policy's accompanying operational procedures will provide curriculum and program support suggestions that will enable students to engage with age-appropriate and meaningful enrichment or support activities and/or program settings that are within-grade.

This report also recommends the adoption of the accompanying Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Operational Procedures – Age-Appropriate Placement: Curriculum/Program Supports.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 50 hours.

A. PURPOSE

This Recommendation Report is on the Order Paper of the Governance and Policy Committee as it recommends the adoption of a new policy and Operational Procedures.

B. BACKGROUND

1. The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Policy on Age-Appropriate Placement: Curriculum/Program Supports has been created in response to a motion carried by Trustees at the April 4, 2019 Student Achievement and Wellbeing Committee meeting. The motion was as follows:
“The Board of Trustees recommend that a task force chaired by the Superintendent of Special Services, be formed to document current TCDSB practices and to develop a policy in the areas of acceleration and retention. Furthermore, it is recommended that staff create a draft policy, and that it be

presented to the Governance and Policy (GAP) Committee for consideration.”

2. This policy and the appended operational procedures have been developed in accordance with the following:
 - a) key regulations such as: the Education Act and PPM 156: Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Education Needs, 2013;
 - b) key policy documents such as: the Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities, 2018; and
 - c) other Ontario Ministry of Education resource documents that inform the principles of:
 - i) Differentiated Instruction (DI),
 - ii) Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and
 - iii) Assessment, evaluation, and reporting for student success.

C. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

This policy has been created in consultation with Family of Schools Superintendents, as well as Senior Staff in Special Services, Research, Legal Services, Curriculum and Innovation, Communications, and Equity and Indigenous Education. Other TCDSB stakeholders consulted are those from among the various staff work groups, students, and parent representatives on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

D. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Recommendations in this report will be monitored by the Director of Education and Superintendent of Special Services
2. Policy updates will be brought to Board in accordance with the policy review schedule.

E. IMPLEMENTATION

The policy as approved will be posted on the TCDSB policy register.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the newly created Policy on Age-Appropriate Placement: Curriculum/Program Supports, provided in Report Appendix A, and the accompanying TCDSB Operational Procedures, provided in Report Appendix B, be adopted.