



REPORT TO

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

EXTERNAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN THE TCDSB - POLICY S.19 FEBRUARY 2021 UPDATE

“An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.” Proverbs 18:15
(NRSVCE)

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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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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the annual list of approved external research proposals and a summary of findings or previous research projects received as of December 31, 2020. Appendix A lists applications that were approved in 2019-2020. Appendix B provides a description of findings from external research approved in 2016-2017.

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 on

schools, 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 2019-2020 school year, there were interruptions in the regular review and implementation of external research activities. Due to job action and labour sanctions, as well as the school closure due to the pandemic, some research activities were suspended. In the spring of 2020, due to the COVID19 pandemic, only online submissions were accepted and a limited number of applications were considered. In total, during the 2019-2020 school year, seven applications were approved. These studies were in various areas including, mental health and well-being, numeracy, second language education, Indigenous education, special services, and student success. These projects represented research from universities, and public and health organizations. 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 completed external research that was approved during the 2016-2017 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.