



REPORT TO

## CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### 2021-2022 STUDENT LEARNING MODELS

*For wisdom becomes known through speech, and education through the words of the tongue. Sirach 4:24*

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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 information related to the 2021-2022 school year learning models and will cover the following topics:

1. Elementary learning model for in-person and remote learning
2. Secondary hybrid learning model
3. Special education support for students
4. Enhanced day e-learning for secondary students
5. Continuing education expanded offerings
6. Communication plan

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours*

## **B. PURPOSE**

This report provides information related to the learning models for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. On May 4th, 2021 the Ministry of Education provided information and direction to boards of education in preparation for the 2021/22 school year.
2. The Ministry of Education has focused support on learning recovery and renewal, equity and student mental health and well-being, while continuing to implement strategies that protect the health and safety of students and staff and support flexibility in school board operations.
3. We have learned from our successes and challenges this past year and this plan provides a pathway forward for the 2021/22 academic year which includes options while prioritizing stability for students, staff, families, and the entire system.
4. Given the increasing access to vaccines around the province and TCDSB staff eligibility, most staff will receive their second vaccination

dose before September. This further enhances the public health and safety protocols already in place at TCDSB schools including signage for regular hand washing, sanitizing, use of masks, social distancing etc.)

5. As such, we anticipate and are planning for the majority of students to return to in-person learning. However, remote learning options will remain available for those students whose parents may decide on an alternative to in-person learning. These models are further elaborated in the next section of the report.
6. In-person learning supports student mental health and well-being. Where possible, families are encouraged to consider the importance of student mental health and well-being when determining the best option for their child(ren). The TCDSB mental health team is currently working on additional resources to support students and staff for a more normal return to school in September 2021.
7. The hybrid model in our secondary schools has been utilized successfully this year and continues to limit direct and indirect contacts of 100 by students while in the school building. It also provides the opportunity for remote learning for students/families that may need it within their home school.
8. The TCDSB Student Learning Models Action Plan will continue to be updated to reflect any changes including any items from Board motions, Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health updates. The plan will continue to be updated as information changes moving towards the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

### **1. Elementary School Model:**

For 2021-2022, students will continue to be cohorted with their classmates and homeroom teacher.

a. Parents/guardians will be able to select one of two learning options for their child(ren):

- attend full time in-person
- attend online by transferring to St. Anne Catholic Academy, School of Virtual Learning for the 2021-2022 school year

b. Core French will be offered at St. Anne and at the in-person schools. Extended French and French Immersion will be offered only at in-person schools that previously had such specialty programming.

c. The information below provides considerations for parents of elementary students with special education needs, to help inform their decision.

i. **In-Person - Elementary Special Education programs and placements:**

- Special Education teacher support
- Empower™ Reading program
- Kindergarten Language Program - Itinerant support
- Program to Assist Social Thinking (PAST) - Itinerant support
- Intensive Support Program (ISP) classes (Language Impaired, Learning Disability, Mild Intellectual Disability, Multiple Exceptionality, Developmental Disability, Autism, Behaviour, Deaf and Hard-of- Hearing)
- Gifted Grade 5-8 - one day per week withdrawal program (accessed through remote learning from home)
- Gifted Grade 6-8 - Congregated program

ii. **Virtual - St. Anne Jr. Elementary Special Education programs and placements will include:**

- Special Education teacher support
- Gifted Withdrawal

## 2. Secondary School Model:

- a. For 2021-2022, parents/guardians will be able to choose one of two options for their child(ren):
  - Attend in-person at their home school through the hybrid model.
  - Attend remotely through their home school through the hybrid model.
- d. Secondary schools will continue to provide their specialty program options such as International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Specialist High School Major (SHSM), Cooperative Education, Extended French, French Immersion, etc.
- e. Special Education:
  - support will be provided for all students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through the hybrid model
  - Intensive Support Program (ISP) classes will be offered through the hybrid model

## 3. Switching Between Learning Models

The past year and a half has brought tremendous uncertainty in education. We recognize and appreciate the importance of consistency where possible for students and staff. The establishment of relationships and routines is important for student achievement and we must acknowledge that classroom stability contributes to enhancing student learning and development.

While the expectation is that the choice of in-person or virtual learning is for the full 2021/22 academic year, **families will have the ability to make a transfer request to their in-person school or to St. Anne at any time.** However, the request will follow the appropriate policy and be dependent on availability of space in existing classes. There will be no guaranteed placement or start date for any requested change. This process is the continuation of the transfer process between in-person and virtual that was adopted successfully in the second half of the 2020/21 academic year.

Families whose transfer requests cannot be accommodated immediately, will be placed on a waitlist until there is an opportunity for their child(ren) to transfer.

In instances where there is no availability, a request to transfer may not be possible.

4. **Day e-learning** has been offered to students in the TCDSB for over 20 years. Day e-learning has provided opportunities for Grade 11 and 12 students, from any school, to register in a course outside of their school, but within the TCDSB. Day e-learning enables students to take a missed course when a course at their school had insufficient enrollment in the course, there was lack of space in the course, the course was not offered, or the course does not fit into a student's timetable due to a scheduling conflict.

For 2021-2022, TCDSB will be enhancing the offerings in day e-learning so that more courses are available to support students within the system.

5. The **Continuing Education** Department will continue to provide expanded opportunities for credit accumulation:
  - night school offerings
  - Saturday school offerings
  - e-class offerings.

The modality of learning (in-person or remote) for night and Saturday school offerings will be determined by Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education directions.

## **E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

Elementary and secondary families will receive a communication with information about learning models being offered in the September 2021-2022 school year. This communication will be shared with families on Monday May 17, 2021 and will break down pertinent details about each learning model. Families will be able to select in-person or remote learning

for their child in elementary. For secondary students, families will be asked if their child will attend in-person classes or whether they will choose remote learning which will operate at their home school and not St. Anne. Families will have from May 17, 2021 until June 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to complete the registration questionnaire. The decision a family makes during this time will be for the entire 2021-2022 school year.

The results of this questionnaire will be critical in the timely creation of class cohorts, organization of school classrooms, student timetabling, staffing requirements and school bus transportation planning.

We recognize that families want the best information possible to make the most informed decision for their child. FAQs are being finalized to be included in parent/guardian communications to assist with decision making for their child's September learning model.

The family communications and FAQs will be posted on the Board's website for ease of reference and linked on social media posts for additional awareness.

Local planning considerations will take place at the school level in late August in collaboration with school principals. Input gained through continued consultation with stakeholders will be considered during this process.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the information of the Board.