



REPORT TO

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

**REPORT ON EXTERNAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED  
IN THE TCDSB - 2022**

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

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L. Di Marco, Superintendent of Curriculum Leadership & Innovation; Academic ICT  
C. Fernandes, Executive Superintendent of Student Achievement, Innovation and Well Being  
M. Endler, Research Associate, Educational Research  
M. Vanayan, Senior Coordinator, Educational Research

**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.*



Brendan Browne, PhD  
Director of Education

A. Della Mora  
Associate Director of Academic  
Affairs and  
Chief Operating Officer

D. Boyce  
Associate Director of  
Facilities, Business and  
Community Development

R. Putnam  
Chief Financial Officer and  
Treasurer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides the annual list of approved external research proposals and a summary of findings for previous research projects received as of December 31, 2021. Appendix A lists applications that were approved in 2020-2021. Appendix B provides a description of findings from external research approved in 2017-2018.

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

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. According to *TCDSB Policy S.19 External Research Conducted in the TCDSB* (revised May 2021), 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* was originally approved in August 1988. The most recent amendment was approved on May 20, 2021, including renaming the policy to “*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 as well as 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. The 2020-2021 school year was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and there was much change in schools and school districts across Ontario in support of a safe learning environment. These realities impacted the proposed plans of external researchers and considerations of the TCDSB Research Review Committee. In total, during the 2020-2021 school year, four external research applications were approved. Each of these studies involved minimal demands on schools, or were part of school programming. Additionally, the application process changed to an online submission process in 2020-21. 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 on 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) and other relevant departments. 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 2017-2018 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 information of the Board.