



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

2022-23 TO 2024-25 CONSENSUS ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS

"Thus says the Lord God: I will also let the house of Israel ask me to do this for them: to increase their population like a flock.", Ezekiel 36:37

Drafted

February 16, 2022

Meeting Date

March 10, 2022

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A. Brutto, Senior Manager, Planning Services

B. Leporati, Senior Coordinator, Planning Services

M. Loberto, Superintendent, Planning and Development Services

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

Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora

Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

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Associate Director of Facilities,
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Ryan Putnam

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides consensus enrolment projections for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years. Enrolment projections form the basis for budget and staffing estimates which are collectively submitted to the Ministry of Education on an annual basis.

TCDSB Current & Projected Enrolment (ADE)					
Year	*2021 (Proj.)	2021 (Current)	2022	2023	2024
Elem.	60,829	58,166	56,686	55,514	54,552
Sec.	26,827	26,639	26,803	26,287	25,672
Total	87,656	84,805	83,489	81,801	80,224
Annual Change	-	-	-1,316	-1,688	-1,577

**2021 Projected Numbers were approved by the Board and are displayed for comparison purposes as staffing for the 2022-2023 school was originally based on these numbers.*

Projected enrolment for the 2022-2023 school year indicates a decrease of -2.5% in the elementary panel and an increase of 0.6% in the secondary panel when compared to actual enrolment for the 2021-22 school year. The elementary panel is expected to decrease until the 2027-2028 school year where strong residential development will trigger increases and recovery in enrolment through the next decade. The secondary panel is expected to see a slow and steady decrease in the long term as a result of the decrease in the elementary panel.

B. BACKGROUND

1. ***Consensus enrolment projections for the 2022-23 to 2024-25 school years have been prepared.*** Enrolment projections are based on October 31, 2021 pupil counts projected forward applying several key projection variables including but not limited to, residential development data, historical retention rates and census data.
2. ***The largest discrepancy between 2021 projections and the actual enrolment occurred in JK.*** For the second consecutive year, the largest discrepancy from the 2021-2022 projections and actual Oct 31st, 2021 enrolment counts occurred in Junior Kindergarten. Elementary principals have reported that some parents are still hesitant to enrol their children into the school system, as is their right under the *Education Act*, due to uncertain circumstance experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. ***The housing affordability crisis in the Greater Toronto Area is affecting enrolment numbers across all GTA school boards. Rural and suburban school boards have seen significant growth to their enrolment numbers while urban school boards have seen a decrease.***
 - Research indicates that families are moving out of the City of Toronto towards municipalities with more affordable real estate and rent as costs continue to soar within city limits (*Appendix 'A'*).
 - StatsCan reports that from July 2020- July 2021, the City of Toronto had 64,000 residents migrate to other parts of the province citing personal health, the ability to work from home and rising housing prices as the main contributors. Of that number, 15,000 were children under the age of 10 along with 21,000 adults between the ages of 25-44.
 - The average home sold price within the City of Toronto rose by 40% from 2018 and is currently \$1,200,000 posing affordability issues for families .
 - In addition, the average rent across all properties in August 2021 was \$1,763 representing no change from 2020 year over year but signalling recovery from the slump at the height of the pandemic.

4. ***Increased Immigration has not generated students within the TCDSB school system.*** With Canada experiencing a declining birth rate since 2008, the Federal Government has recently increased immigration targets to 401,000 with the 2021 targets being met. The number of newcomers that settled within the City of Toronto offset the net migration losses. However, after consultation with local school principals the newcomers that would traditionally join the TCDSB system have not settled in the typical areas due to affordability issues.
5. ***International (visa) student admission is subject to an established cap per school.*** International student projections are developed by the International Education Department and admissions of students does not exceed the overall cap on Grade 9 admissions. International students have been factored into the secondary enrolment projections and schools were informed of their individual school caps in this category.
6. ***International Students have not returned in the same numbers realized prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic.*** Consultation with the International Students department as well as local school principals have confirmed lower than usual International Student enrolment due to the uncertainty of lockdowns, potential border restrictions and not having the same in-person experience as prior to the pandemic. International Student are currently being projected in the range of 400 students for the 2022-2023 school year. This represents approximately a third of the usual enrolment seen when compared to the pre-pandemic school years.

C. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. ***Preliminary projections were reviewed and validated by all Area Superintendents and School Principals to form the Consensus Enrolment Projections.*** Suggested modifications to the projections gathered through these consultations in January and February were fully considered and openly discussed. Where appropriate, changes have been incorporated into the projection model resulting in a consensus enrolment projection. ***Staff have implemented a conservative projection model due to the uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has created as well as the Housing Affordability Crisis seen within the City of Toronto. The 2022-2023 Projection Enrolment model assumes that all students will be learning in person and assigned to their home school.***

2. ***Elementary enrolment is projected to be 56,686 students (ADE) for the 2022-23 school year.*** This represents a forecasted decrease of approximately 1,480 students or -2.5%. Elementary enrolment experienced a consecutive significant decline in the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19 as well as the Housing Affordability crisis within the City of Toronto. Many parents opted keep their JK eligible children out of school amid the uncertainty, allowable under the *Education Act*.
3. ***Secondary enrolment is projected to be 26,803 students (ADE) for the 2022-23 school year.*** This represents a forecasted increase of approximately 164 students or 0.6%. Secondary panel enrolment is expected to decrease due to the limited international student enrolment with the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. The secondary panel is expected to decrease at a slow and steady rate in the coming years due to the decrease seen in the elementary panel as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic as well as Housing Affordability crisis.
4. ***The projection for the 2022-2023 school year also reflects the interprovince migration/immigration to and from the City of Toronto.*** Planning staff will continue to monitor the situation for any changes that may affect the projected enrolment numbers.
5. ***Figures 1 and 2 illustrate historic and projected enrolment by panel.*** Enrolment projection totals have been summarized by Trustee Ward and panel in Appendices (*Appendix B*) and (*Appendix C*).

Figure 1

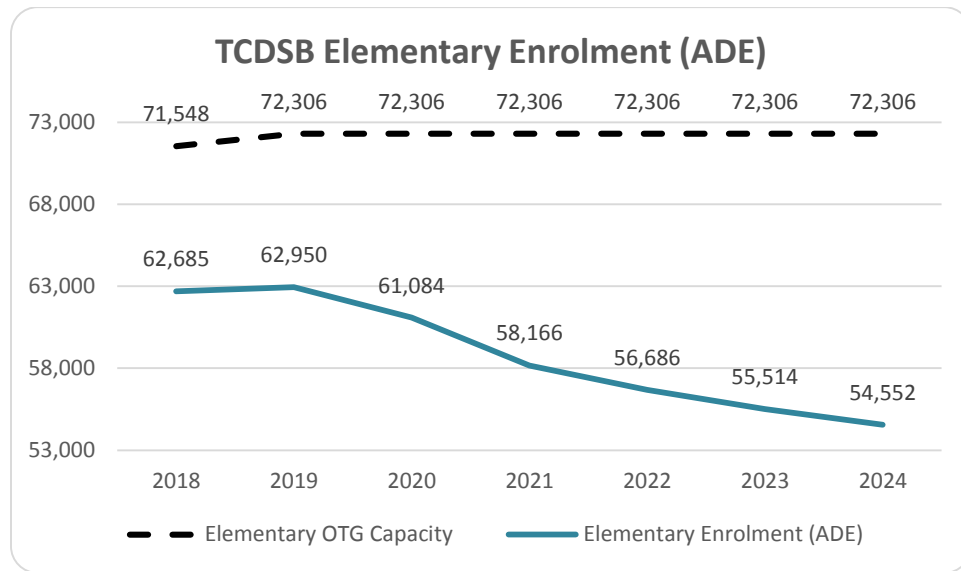
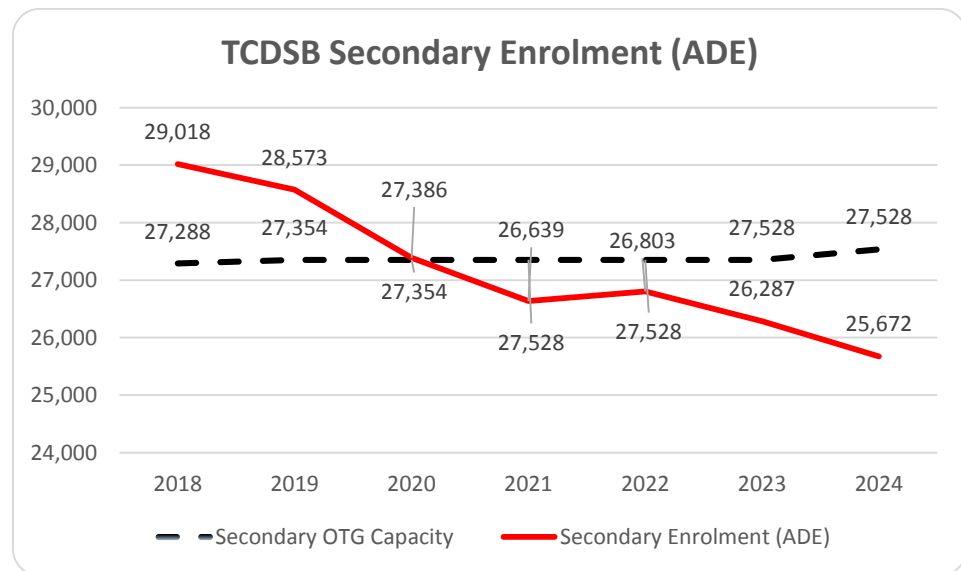


Figure 1



D. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1. Following this report, the consensus projections for 2022-23 will be operationalized.* Staffing models are driven by these projections through collaboration between the Human Resources, Information Technology and Planning departments along with the Academic side of the organization.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board.