



REPORT TO

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

TCDSB INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY

John 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you...”

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Patrick Keyes, Superintendent , Alex Mazzucco, Co-ordinator for International Education, Continuing Education,		
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 rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity



G. Poole
Associate Director of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio
Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

Angela Gauthier
Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report offers information on the development of the International Education Program at TCDSB within the context of the International Education Sector in Canada over the past five years. In August of 2012 the federal government released a report that aims to double the number of international visa students in Canada by 2022. (Appendix B). Within our own Board we have gone from having 40 international Visa students enrolled five years ago to over 1100 students attending the TCDSB now. Today Toronto Catholic is the third largest destination for K to 12 students in Canada.

B. PURPOSE

This report has been brought forward to brief the Board on the International Education Program at TCDSB with respect to how this program supports the *Multi-year Strategic Plan*. Principally this includes, '*Living our Catholic Values*' and '*Fostering Student Achievement and Well-being*'. Within the context of international education whether it is in supporting TCDSB students to experience culture in other countries or welcoming students new to Canada our aim is to live out our Board mission --. '*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*'

C. BACKGROUND

International Education at TCDSB has four areas:

- a) TCDSB student study and travel abroad
- b) TCDSB staff teaching and professional development abroad.(summer)
- c) TCDSB support for educational institutions including school districts from other countries. (Korea, China, Taiwan)
- d) International students on visa studying at TCDSB.

In terms of the growth of our programming we send students abroad to study in over four continents. The countries involved include Italy, Ireland, Kenya, the Philippines, France, Poland, Germany, Grenada, Peru and most recently Iceland.

We also share our expertise internationally in overseas educational jurisdictions with staff working in the summer with teachers from the participating country as well as their students. At the same time, we welcome teaching professionals to observe in our classrooms as well as working with delegations who come to our Board to learn about our programming.

Our most significant area of growth in the past five years has been with students on International Visas who study in our schools. The countries we principally work with are from China, Korea and Taiwan. We also have have students from Brazil, Germany, Columbia, Chile, France, Ukraine and Spain.

TCDSB has had exponential growth moving from approximately 40 fulltime international students in 2010 to 1150 by for February 2015. We are projecting growth to 1300 student for September 2015. As well, there has been expansion of short term international student stays with students from Korea and China arriving for winter camps and summer camps to experience our Catholic schools hospitality, improve their facility in English and enjoy Canada's diverse multiculturalism.

During the last four years our schools have worked to be welcoming and hospitable centres for international students where they are full members in their school. At the same time, centrally staffing infrastructures have been put in place to ensure that from the time a student and their family have signalled an interest in the program to the time the student's pathway is now leading to their post-TCDSB destination they are well provided for. Importantly, this includes ensuring the student has a caring homestay family, there is a social and spiritual support for students in schools, their academic course of study ensures success, and that staff is attuned to the needs of International students and their families. This includes the need for structures that allow for a strong bond of communication between school, custodians, agents, homestay parents, various central staff departments, social agencies. As well, in terms of infrastructure there is a need to provision for the legal and commercial requirements of an international education program so that there is an efficient and effective system in place that allows for an optimized workflow so that students and their delegates requirements are met.

It is worth noting that with the revenues generated through student Visa program this school year we have been able to provision for forty one teaching positions as well as generating approximately 5.5 million in net revenue for TCDSB.

D. ANALYSIS

1. Appendix A –Enrolment for International Education Students
2. Appendix B –Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development analysis of International Education to 2022.
3. Appendix C –Programming Structure for International Education (Powerpoint)

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Staff will continue to monitor the growth of the program to ensure both sustainability and stability.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board and.