



## REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL  
BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND  
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEEREQUESTS FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS  
2021-2022

*All these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God  
Deuteronomy 28:2*

## Drafted

September 26, 2022

## Meeting Date

October 6, 2022

Michael Caccamo, Superintendent of Nurturing our Catholic Community, Safe Schools, Continuing Education, Monsignor Fraser College Alternative and Adult Secondary School, Orientation Centre, and Religious Accommodations

Brandy Doan, Senior Coordinator, Educational Research

## INFORMATION REPORT

**Vision:** *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

**Mission:** *Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN  
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Brendan Browne  
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora  
Associate Director of  
Academic Affairs &  
Chief Operating  
Officer

Derek Boyce  
Associate Director of  
Corporate Services and  
Chief Commercial  
Officer

Ryan Putnam  
Chief Financial Officer  
and Treasurer

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the number and type of requests for religious accommodation within the Toronto Catholic District School Board schools from September 2021 to June 2022. Data for this report were collected using a survey and interviews with school Principals.

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

## B. PURPOSE

1. This report fulfils the obligation in the TCDSB Religious Accommodation Policy S.22 that religious accommodation requests will be monitored and reported in an annual report to the Board of Trustees.
2. The obligation for honouring requests for religious accommodation is also articulated in the TCDSB Opening and Closing Exercises Policy S.S.02 (<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Documents/SS02.pdf>).

## C. BACKGROUND

1. Since 2012, there have been relatively few formal requests for religious accommodation, including exemptions.

## D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The number of schools reporting requests in the 2021-2022 has decreased to 11 schools from 16 schools from the previous year. The number of requests increased from 25 requests in 2020-2021 to 36 requests in 2021-2022, with the greatest number of religious accommodations requested for “participation in curriculum”. Although the number of requests for religious accommodation has increased since last year by 11 requests, there is an overall downward trend in the number of requests received since 2017-2018.
2. A summary of all requests is provided in the *Appendix*. Accommodations have been made in accordance with the *TCDSB Religious Accommodation Policy S.22* and within the provisions of the Education Act, Section 42(11) and 42(13)(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e02#BK50>).

3. When requests for religious accommodation are received, Principals engage in discussions with students and parents/guardians. In addition, Principals consult with their Area Superintendent as well as the Superintendent responsible for religious accommodation requests oversight.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Principals will dialogue with their Area Superintendents and, when necessary, consult with the Superintendent responsible for religious accommodation requests oversight.
2. In June 2023, Principals will be asked to provide data on religious accommodation requests received in the 2022-2023 school year.
3. Senior Staff report to Board annually in the fall of each school year regarding the data on religious accommodation requests collected in June of the previous school year.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the information of the Board of Trustees.