



REPORT TO

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

## ELEMENTARY CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP IMPACT TEAM REPORT 2024

*So let a man think of us as Christ's servants, and stewards of God's mysteries. Here, moreover, it is required of stewards, that they be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)*

Drafted	Meeting Date
October 21, 2024	November 7, 2024

D. Ballesteros Padilla, CSLIT Director of Elementary Affairs  
 C. Consul, CSLIT Director of Elementary Affairs  
 M. Consul, Catholic Student Leadership Resource Teacher  
 M. Caccamo, Superintendent of Nurturing our Catholic Community, Safe Schools, Continuing Education, Religious Accommodations

### 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**

In October, the Directors of Elementary Affairs for the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) gathered input from hundreds of elementary students across the TCDSB. To ensure their voices were heard, students completed a survey identifying local and global issues to prioritize for the 2024-2025 school year. The Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (ECSLIT) aims to implement the action plans in this report to honour these students' perspectives.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 40 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. This information report is part of the order paper for the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education, and Human Resources Committee, following an approved motion for an annual update on ECSLIT initiatives and activities.
2. The report outlines practical activities for elementary schools to implement initiatives based on recommendations from elementary students.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. Through a survey, ECSLIT students voiced their opinions and ranked the topics they consider most important. Their input provided the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs with a roadmap to guide ECSLIT's focus areas for the 2024-2025 school year.
2. This report outlines practical action plans for elementary schools and ECSLIT leaders to implement initiatives that address the recommendations from elementary student leaders.

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

1. A summary of last year's ECSLIT 2023-2024 recommended actions, achievements and events can be found in the Appendix.
2. Although over 400 secondary students were surveyed in September, the voices of elementary students were not included. To better serve our elementary

community, a short survey was given to elementary students, allowing the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs to gather their feedback and ideas.

3. In response to recommendations from elementary students, our student leaders, in collaboration with CSLIT’s Directors of Elementary Affairs and the CSLIT Executive, are proposing the following action plan. For the 2024-2025 school year, ECSLIT will focus on three pillars: (1) Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility; (2) Student Support; and (3) Outreach and Servant Leadership. While aligning with their secondary school counterparts, elementary students have tailored the action plans to better suit their needs.
4. Support from the Board of Trustees and Senior Staff is essential to ensure our elementary student leaders are heard and can grow while implementing these action plans.

<b>ECSLIT 2024-2025 Recommended Actions</b>
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<b>1. Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility</b>
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<p>The Directors of Elementary Affairs and the ECSLIT general assembly recognize the importance of fostering a positive, diverse, and inclusive environment for all students. Our action plans aim to help students embody the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and enhance their overall well-being.</p>
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<p>This year, we aim to engage more schools, particularly those in higher-need communities, allowing students to develop leadership skills, share experiences, and showcase strategies. To address the travel challenges many students face in attending ECSLIT meetings at the CEC, we will increase our monthly meetings from one to two—one in the East and one in the West. This will make participation more accessible, and schools can sign up to host a meeting, giving students valuable opportunities to lead and organize.</p>
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<p>With support from the Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education, Community Relations, and Nurturing our Catholic Community teams, ECSLIT will organize guest speakers to focus on Indigenous culture, accessibility (AODA), social justice, and faith development. Our monthly meetings will feature themes around these topics, broadening students' understanding of inclusivity, equity, accessibility, and advocacy. Elementary students will engage in reflective discussions and pose questions to guest speakers, encouraging deeper exploration of these vital themes and inspiring active contributions to building more inclusive, accessible, and equitable schools and communities.</p>
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## 2. Student Supports

Every student, created in the image of God, deserves social, mental, physical, and spiritual support. While our Board effectively meets many students' needs, building awareness of available resources remains a priority.

**Mental Health Support:** In collaboration with the Mental Health Team, ECSLIT Directors will present a *"Mental Health Minute"* at each monthly meeting, sharing practical mental health strategies. Additional tips will be posted on social media during *"Mental Health Mondays."*

**Spiritual Support:** To bring our Pastoral Plan to life, aligned with the year of *Knowledge*, we will host Bible and Religion Trivia at each ECSLIT meeting. Five questions will be posed monthly, with points tallied over the year. The school with the most points will win a pizza lunch for their class and ECSLIT team.

**Physical Support:** In partnership with the Outdoor Education and Health and Physical Education (HPE) department, we will train elementary students to lead in physical activity and active play. The Directors of Elementary Affairs will promote *C-LEAP (Catholic Leaders Engaging in Active Play)* by hosting workshops at iLITE (our annual leadership conference), Camp Olympia (our overnight leadership camp), and during each ECSLIT meeting.

**Social Support:** Each monthly meeting will include activities that encourage students to connect with peers from other schools. We will focus on developing effective communication and leadership skills that will benefit students in high school and beyond.

## 3. Outreach and Servant Leadership

Outreach and servant leadership are essential concepts that highlight the importance of community engagement and a service-oriented mindset. Student leaders will learn how to strengthen community bonds, implement action plans, and create positive change, fostering creativity, holistic thinking, effective communication, and problem-solving skills.

This year, we aim to emphasize servant leadership by encouraging students to participate in initiatives that benefit both their school and the wider community. Through ECSLIT, iLITE, SMILE Camp, and Camp Olympia, students will connect with various charitable organizations, such as Development & Peace, Socks for Souls, the Meagan Bebenek Foundation, the Angel Foundation for Learning, and Sharelife. Engaging with these organizations is a meaningful way to put faith into action.

Between certain monthly meetings, students will be challenged to support one of these organizations through specific actions, such as gathering socks for the homeless, making cranes for terminally ill children at Sick Kids Hospital, or collecting signatures to advocate for the poor. We believe that passion plus gifts equals change. Our goal is to ignite passion in elementary students while helping them develop their leadership skills, ultimately fostering positive change in both their school and community.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Students should be inspired to create positive change in the world. We want them to not only identify problems but also care enough to take action. Engaging in social justice initiatives allows students to express their faith. The Student Trustees and CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs will collaborate with various staff members and the ECSLIT general assembly to implement recommendations and action plans based on feedback from elementary students. Student leaders believe that Board policies should align with current local and global social justice issues.
2. Moving forward, the Student Trustees and CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs will provide the Board with updates on the impact of their initiatives in their annual report to the Board of Trustees.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

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