



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY
COMMITTEEELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
BOUNDARY POLICY (S.A. 03)

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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RECOMMENDATION 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.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An elementary school attendance boundary policy was first adopted by the Board in April 2010. The intent of the Policy was to provide a formal and objective procedure to address schools that were significantly oversubscribed or undersubscribed by establishing fixed attendance boundaries for elementary schools. At the time, very few elementary schools had fixed boundaries and the Policy was required to guide the process of establishing boundaries.

On October 23, 2014 the Board approved fixed boundaries for all remaining elementary schools that were modelled on FDK boundaries established by the Board in order to manage the roll-out of Full Day Kindergarten over the period 2010 - 2014.

The Policy has been revised over the years to make it more effective as a means of managing enrolment and utilizing existing space. This report proposes further revisions to improve upon the Policy and focus efforts on 'adjusting approved boundaries'.

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a revised Elementary School Attendance Boundary Policy for the consideration of Trustees. In revising the Policy, the objective is to shorten and simplify the document making it easier to understand, and reduce the time required to implement the Policy and complete a boundary review.

B. BACKGROUND

1. An attendance boundary policy was first adopted by the Board on April 28, 2010. The Policy provided an objective means of establishing an attendance boundary for elementary schools experiencing programming challenges and/or facility limitations as a result of being significantly oversubscribed or undersubscribed. Prior to this date, there were only a handful of elementary schools with fixed attendance boundaries that were established on an ad-hoc basis with no formal procedures in place.
2. The Policy was revised by the Board on October 18, 2012. The purpose of the amendment was to improve upon the language and clarity of the Policy document.

3. Further revisions to the Policy were approved on March 20, 2014. Whereas the previous Policy provided procedures to establish elementary school attendance boundaries where none existed before, the revised Policy allowed for the review and modification (if necessary) of existing elementary school attendance boundaries. Furthermore, the Policy was revised to also provide the added flexibility to undertake an abbreviated and expedited boundary review for boundary adjustments that are considered minor in nature.
4. It is important to note that with the adoption of the Admission and Placement of Elementary Pupils Policy (S.A.01) on October 23, 2014, full day kindergarten boundaries became fixed attendance boundaries for all elementary schools. As a result, a policy designed to establish elementary school attendance boundaries would be redundant and no longer required.
5. The Policy was further revised by Corporate Affairs, Strategic Planning and Property Committee at its meeting of April 14, 2015. Arising from a Trustee Matter regarding potential conflicts that could arise as a result of a school(s) being the subject of a school accommodation review and a boundary review, the Elementary School Attendance Boundary Policy was revised by adding the following regulation.

“Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein, this Policy shall not apply to any boundary reviews, changes or decisions that are made as a result of a School Accommodation Review pursuant to Policy No. S.09. In the case of a conflict between this Policy and the School Accommodation Review Policy (Policy No. S.09), the School Accommodation Review Policy shall take precedence.”

6. A comprehensive review of the current Policy (*Appendix ‘A’*) has been undertaken to make it shorter and simpler to follow, more effective, and reduce the time required to implement and complete the boundary review. Some of the key changes are identified below.
 - A stakeholder committee which meets once to review all relevant background information (including a boundary adjustment option prepared by staff) regarding the school(s) whose boundaries are under review replaces the Boundary Review Committee (BRC) whose mandate includes convening a minimum of two (2) and maximum of four (4) public meetings.

- The required minimum 30 day notification period prior to the first public meeting, and the minimum required consultation period (to hold the public meetings) of 30 days are not required under the proposed Policy.
 - Unlike the current Policy, under the proposed Policy all boundary adjustment reviews are subject to the same process; there is no need to determine whether a boundary adjustment is of a minor nature and therefore subject to a modified, shortened process (Regulation 25 under current Policy).
 - If, under the proposed Policy, the stakeholder committee cannot reach consensus, the matter goes through due process and becomes the subject of a comprehensive report prepared by the Director of Education for the consideration of Trustees.
7. Attendance boundary reviews will be undertaken at the community engagement level of ‘consult’, as defined in Community Engagement Policy T. 07 (*Appendix ‘B’*). ‘Consult’ is defined as follows:
- “To obtain input from community members and the general public on proposed Board directions and decisions”.*
8. As a result of extensive changes proposed to the Policy, this report proposes to rescind the current Policy and provides a revised Policy for the consideration of Trustees. A side-by-side comparison of the current and proposed Policy is presented in *Appendix ‘C’*. A basic flow chart showing the major components of the proposed Policy is provided in *Appendix ‘D’*.

C. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the current Elementary School Attendance Boundary Policy (S.A. 03) provided in *Appendix ‘A’* of this report be rescinded.
2. That the proposed Elementary School Attendance Boundary Review Policy (S.A. 03) contained in *Appendix ‘E’* of this report be adopted.