



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

STATUS OF WAITLIST FOR OVERSUBSCRIBED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ALL WARDS

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1 | NIV |

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
November 3, 2016	November 24, 2016	Click here to enter a date.

J. Volek, Senior Coordinator, Planning and Accountability
 J. Brighton, Senior Coordinator, ICT Trillium/Student Services
 K. Malcolm, Superintendent Area 7
 M. Silva, Comptroller of 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.



R. McGuckin
 Associate Director of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio
 Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

C. Jackson
 Executive Superintendent of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer

Angela Gauthier
 Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Planning and Admissions staff worked closely with the IT department to assemble and summarize current student waitlist information, with a particular focus on identifying oversubscribed elementary schools with larger numbers of waitlisted students.

Analysis of current student waitlist information indicates that many elementary students who were not accommodated in their first school of choice, but offered redirection to a nearby school with available space, opted to remain on a waitlist.

As of November 13, 2016, 3240 new students have been registered and are attending 47 oversubscribed schools across the system. However, 380 elementary Regular program students and 215 elementary French Immersion (FI) program students opted to remain on waitlists, representing 595 students in total. Of these 595 elementary waitlisted students, approximately 54% represent Priorities 1 through to 3.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 105 hours.

B. PURPOSE

This report is in response to a Trustee motion to provide the Board with a status update on elementary students (**all grades**) placed on waitlists in oversubscribed schools.

C. BACKGROUND

1. **September 8, 2016** – At the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee, a Trustee motion directed staff to report on the wait lists for all elementary schools that are oversubscribed.
2. This academic year, elementary enrolment has exceeded projections by 238 students. Furthermore, 3240 new students, to date, have been registered and are attending 47 oversubscribed schools across the system.
3. Several schools in the system have dealt with overwhelming demand for classroom space, whereby demand exceeded available classroom space.

This situation continues today, as clearly identified in the tables in following section.

4. Students who are unsuccessful in gaining admission to their designated home school, or first school of choice, are given the option of being placed on a waitlist in order of priority and by time and date of application. At a designated time each year, the Board “releases the waitlist” and any space that becomes available (for whatever reason) will be offered to a student on the waitlist by order of priority and the time and date of their completed application.
5. There are no guarantees of admission at any level of priority, however, the Planning and Facilities department in partnership with the school principal makes every effort to ensure that space at any school is fully utilized. Furthermore, any school where there is potential for the placement of portables will be assessed in an effort to accommodate as many students as possible. Facilities staff will also assess schools with pupil accommodation challenges and make any suggestions for internal modifications in an effort to increase overall capacity. The overriding objective is to accommodate all students wherever possible.
6. Opportunities for elementary boundary adjustments will be considered in an effort to keep pace with demographic change. The common practice of grandfathering existing out-of-boundary enrolled students, combined with boundary adjustments, however, will not have sizeable or significant impacts on enrolment for several years as out-of-boundary grandfathered students must graduate out of the school to free-up space for new in-boundary students and any new siblings.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

7. As of November 13, 2016, 380 elementary Regular program students and 215 French Immersion (FI) program students opted to remain on waitlists, representing 595 total elementary students in oversubscribed schools.
8. Of the 595 total elementary waitlisted students in oversubscribed schools:
 - 17 represent Priority 1 (siblings)
 - 135 represent Priority 2 (in-boundary), and
 - 167 represent Priority 3 (in regional FI program boundary)

This equates to 319 students or 54% of waitlisted elementary students.

- Tables 1 and 2 below summarize Regular program waitlists.
- Tables 3 and 4 below summarize French Immersion (FI) program waitlists.

Regular Program, 47 Oversubscribed Schools (FDK-8)

<u>Table 1</u>				
Admissions Priority (description)	Number of New Students Registered and Attending	Current Total Number of Students on a Waitlist	Current Number of Students on a Waitlist Attending Another TCDSB School	Current Number of Students on a Waitlist <u>Not</u> Attending a TCDSB School
1 (siblings)	917	11	1	10
2 (in-boundary)	2059	127	16	111
3 (out-of-boundary, licenced child care)	74	70	23	47
4 (out-of-boundary, unlicensed child care)	63	34	15	19
5 (out-of-boundary)	124	132	48	84
6 (outside the City of Toronto)	3	6		6
Total (FDK-8):	3240	380	103	277
Total FDK only:	2227	166	61	105

9. The following 23 of 47 **oversubscribed** elementary schools (Table 2, next page) have a Regular program student waitlist of 5 or more students:

<u>Table 2</u>				
Oversubscribed School Name	Number of New Students Registered and Attending	Current Total Number of Students on a Waitlist	Current Number of Students on a Waitlist Attending Another TCDSB School	Current Number of Students on a Waitlist <u>Not</u> Attending a TCDSB School
Our Lady of Sorrows	93	46	26	20
All Saints	99	33	13	20
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	63	28	2	26
Transfiguration	51	23	6	17
Holy Angels	88	21	9	12
St. Benedict	84	21	12	9
St. Marcellus	77	21	1	20
St. Gregory	103	15	2	13
Josyf Cardinal Slipyj	15	14	5	9
St. Anselm	67	14	2	12
St. Edward	111	12		12
St. Margaret	124	11		11
St. Boniface	46	10	8	2
St. Clement	58	10	1	9
Our Lady of Peace	61	9	2	7
Our Lady of the Assumption	61	7		7
St. Brendan	74	7	3	4
St. Fidelis	76	7	2	5
St. Andrew	107	6		6
St. Jude	111	6		6
St. Agnes	56	5	2	3
St. Edmund Campion	41	5		5
St. Kateri Tekakwitha	60	5		5
Other (24 schools)*	1514	44	7	37
Total (FDK-8):	3240	380	103	277
Total FDK only:	2227	166	61	105

*Note: "Other" represents the remainder of oversubscribed schools with waitlists of less than 5 students.

French Immersion (FI) Program, Oversubscribed Schools (FDK-8)

<u>Table 3</u>				
Admissions Priority (description)	Number of New FI Students Registered and Attending	Current Total Number of FI Students on a Waitlist	Current Number of FI Students on a Waitlist Attending Another TCDSB School	Current Number of FI Students on a Waitlist <u>Not</u> Attending a TCDSB School
1 (siblings)	58	6	1	5
2 (in regular program boundary)	61	8	2	6
3 (in regional FI program boundary)	66	167	50	117
4 (out-of-boundary, licenced child care)		4		4
5 (out-of-boundary, unlicensed child care)	3	3		3
6 (out-of-boundary)	6	25	5	20
7 (outside the City of Toronto)		2		2
Total FI (FDK-8):	194	215	58	157
Total FDK FI only:	164	112	27	85

10. The following three (3) **oversubscribed** elementary schools (Table 4, next page) have a French Immersion program student waitlist of 41 or more students, approximately 78% of which fall within their respective regional FI program boundaries (Priority 3).

Table 4				
Oversubscribed School Name	Number of New FI Students Registered and Attending	Current Total Number of FI Students on a Waitlist	Current Number of FI Students on a Waitlist Attending Another TCDSB School	Current Number of FI Students on a Waitlist <u>Not</u> Attending a TCDSB School
St. Cyril	61	121	33	88
Our Lady of Peace	73	53	17	36
St. Cecilia	60	41	8	33
Total FI (FDK-8):	194	215	58	157
Total FI FDK only:	164	112	27	85

11. As part of due diligence, Admissions staff regularly follow-up with schools to determine the status of their waitlists. It was noted that some parents were not interested in redirection and elected to remain in private schools or in their local Catholic and public school until the next TCDSB registration period.

E. ACTION PLAN

12. **October 20, 2016** – At the Regular Board meeting, the Board approved, in principle, the Long-Term Accommodation and Program Plan (LTAPP), subject to further stakeholder consultation. The consultation process has been initiated and a final report is expected in February of 2017. The Long-Term Accommodation Plan calls for significant Capital investments over 15 years (subject to Ministry funding) to increase OTG capacity in areas where there is oversubscription—this includes “right-sized” replacement schools, additions, and retrofits.
13. Furthermore, staff will continue to focus on balancing enrolment and maximizing use of available space in all schools to ensure strong business cases to the Ministry of Education for Capital funding.

14. Careful analysis of historical enrolment trends helped to inform future program direction in the Long-Term Program Plan (LTPP). The draft LTPP calls for 12 new FI programs over the next 2 years at key school locations, spread equitably across the City—this is widely anticipated to have a net effect of reducing enrolment pressures at the 7 current FI schools.
15. Families on waitlists will continue to be contacted and offered space as it becomes available. The Board will also continue to seek solutions to increase capacity in schools that are oversubscribed through its ongoing efforts to secure new Ministry funding for Capital construction and/or balancing enrolment and maximizing available classroom space. The current draft LTAPP contains a number of recommendations designed to address school capacity issues, and will be considered for approval by the Board of Trustees at its meeting in February 2017.
16. Admissions and IT staff, in consultation with Education Council and Early Learning, have been developing a short voluntary survey that will be automatically e-mailed to all families on waitlists via the SOAR application. This waitlist survey, when completed and fully vetted by the Research Department, will attempt to better understand the reasons and rationale for why parents choose to remain on waitlists and where their children currently attend school—whether it be at other TCDSB schools or other boards. It is anticipated that this survey will be ready for distribution to all waitlisted families by January 21, 2017 in a variety of languages.
17. In addition to the Waitlist survey, Entry and Exit surveys will also be ready when registrations open on January 18, 2017. Automated e-mails for elementary schools (exit survey) and secondary schools (entry and exit surveys) have been finalized and data collected from the surveys will be available as early as February of 2017.
18. This report will be updated on a yearly basis by the Admissions Department in consultation with IT, Early Learning and Education Council in order to track our success in the accommodation of all students.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.