



**POLICY SECTION:** SCHOOLS

**SUB-SECTION:**

**POLICY NAME:** PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW POLICY

**POLICY NO:** S. 09

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| <b>Date Approved:</b><br>January 24, 2007                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Date of Next Review:</b><br>May 2019 | <b>Dates of Amendments:</b><br>September 11, 2014<br>January 15, 2015<br>May 12, 2016 |
| <b>Cross References:</b><br>Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG), March 2015.<br>Ministry of Education Administrative Review of Accommodation Review Process<br>Ministry of Education Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (CPPG), March 2015.<br>Community Planning and Partnerships Policy (B.R. 07) |                                         |                                                                                       |
| <b>Appendix:</b> Pupil Accommodation Review Operational Procedures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                         |                                                                                       |

### **Purpose:**

This policy outlines the process Toronto Catholic District School Board (the Board) will undertake to complete a pupil accommodation review or a modified pupil accommodation review of a school or schools.

On March 26, 2015, the Minister of Education released a new Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, 2015 (the "PARG"). This Policy and the Operational Procedures are established by the Board in accordance with the PARG, as per ministry requirement.

### **Scope and Responsibility:**

The Board is responsible for deciding the most appropriate pupil accommodation arrangements for the delivery of its elementary and secondary programs. These decisions are made by the Board of Trustees in dispensing of its primary responsibility which aligns with the over-arching objectives of fostering student



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academic achievement and well-being, and ensuring effective stewardship of the resources of the Board, including the Board's financial viability and sustainability. These objectives apply to any accommodation review conducted pursuant to this Policy, including those conducted under the modified accommodation review process.

In some cases, to address student populations that are constantly changing, the Board of Trustees must consider undertaking pupil accommodation reviews that could lead to school consolidations and closures. Wherever practical, pupil accommodation reviews will include a school or group of schools to facilitate the development of viable solutions for pupil accommodation that support the objectives noted above. Wherever possible, schools will be subject to a pupil accommodation review only once in a five-year period, unless there are circumstances that warrant a review, as determined by the Board, such as a significant change in enrolment.

**Alignment with MYSP:**

Living Our Catholic values

Strengthening Public Confidence

Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being

Providing Stewardship of Resources

**Financial Impact:**

It is anticipated that the Board would incur limited costs associated with the implementation of the accommodation review process itself. A pupil accommodation review could potentially provide the Board with the opportunity to realize substantial savings by balancing enrolment and right-sizing schools.



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**Legal Impact:**

The Board could be involved in legal proceedings if the pupil accommodation review process is not implemented in accordance with this Policy. The Ministry Guidelines provide a formal process which must be followed if the implementation of the pupil accommodation review process is challenged.

**Policy:**

A pupil accommodation review of a school or schools will occur in the context of the Board's long-term capital and accommodation planning process, and after the necessary assessment of the options for the school(s) in accordance with that process. This assessment will be made in accordance with Board policy made pursuant to the Community Planning and Partnership Guideline (CPPG) issued by the Ministry of Education.

As a result of some assessments, the Board of Trustees must consider undertaking pupil accommodation reviews that may lead to school consolidations and/or closures. Wherever practical, pupil accommodation reviews will include a school or schools to facilitate the development of viable solutions for pupil accommodation.

The Board welcomes the opportunity for the public and affected school communities to be heard with respect to pupil accommodation reviews. The Board will share relevant information with those affected by the process.

The Board of Trustees will make the final decision regarding any pupil accommodation review.

The Regulations and any Schedules of this Policy may be amended from time to time in accordance with the PARG. In all cases, any minimum timelines set out in the PARG will be followed by the Board.



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A copy of this Policy, together with the PARG and Administrative Review of Accommodation Review Process issued by the Minister of Education are available to the public upon request at the Board office and on the Board's website.

### **Principles:**

Through the Catholic Social Teachings and its Multi-Year Strategic Plan, the Board is committed to establishing integrated decision-making structures and processes to support responsive and responsible allocation of resources, including the provision of equitable, affordable and sustainable learning facilities. The following principles will be used as a foundation to support the mission and vision of the Board while undertaking pupil accommodation reviews.

1. The TCDSB is committed to responsibly providing optimal learning facilities for the common good while, at the same time, making it possible for all to come to their full potential as persons and to be all that God intends them to be.
2. Schools will have meaningful connections with a Roman Catholic parish and structured links to their community.
3. Students of the TCDSB have the right to attend Catholic schools that provide reasonable community access, and the Board has a responsibility to provide schools that optimally enhance student learning opportunities in the 21st century.
4. The Catholic principle of subsidiarity promotes the establishment of groups of parents and stakeholders whose purpose is to actively participate in the school accommodation review process, contributing to decisions that consider the value of schools to the parish and community.



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## **Regulations:**

### **1. Pupil Accommodation Review Process**

The pupil accommodation review process shall consist of the following components:

- i. Preparation and submission to the Board of Trustees of an Initial Staff Report and School Information Profile(s);
- ii. Approval by the Board of Trustees to undertake a pupil accommodation review process;
- iii. Establishment of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC), including its Terms of Reference;
- iv. Consultation with the City of Toronto and Community Partners;
- v. Accommodation Review Public Meetings;
- vi. Preparation and submission of an Interim Staff Report to the Board of Trustees, including a Community Consultation section;
- vii. Public Delegations to the Board of Trustees;
- viii. Preparation and submission of a Final Staff Report to the Board of Trustees;
- ix. Decision by the Board of Trustees;
- x. Establishment of a Transition Committee.

### **2. Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Approval & Initiation**

A modified pupil accommodation review process may be approved and initiated by the Board of Trustees only under exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the local trustee(s) where three (3) or more of the following factors are present:

- i. Distance to the nearest available accommodation is 2 kilometers or less for elementary schools involved in the review and 7 kilometers or less



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for all secondary schools. The nearest accommodation indicated must be a single-gender school if a single-gender school is under review;

- ii. Utilization rate of all of the schools under review is equal to or below 50% for elementary and secondary schools;
- iii. The number of students enrolled is 100 or fewer for elementary schools involved in the review and 500 or fewer for all secondary schools in the review;
- iv. When the Board is planning the relocation of a program (in any school year or over a number of school years), in which the enrolment constitutes more than or equal to fifty percent (50%) of the school's enrolment (this calculation is based on the enrolment at the time of the relocation, or the first phase of a relocation carried over a number of school years);
- v. There are no more than two (2) schools subject to the pupil accommodation review process; or
- vi. The entire student population of the schools subject to a pupil accommodation review process can be accommodated in another within 2 kilometers for elementary schools and within 7 kilometers for secondary schools.

### **3. Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Process**

The modified pupil accommodation review process shall consist of the following components.

- i. Preparation and submission of an Initial Staff Report and School Information Profile(s) to the Board of Trustees;
- ii. Approval by the Board of Trustees to undertake a modified pupil accommodation review process;
- iii. Consultation with the City of Toronto and Community Partners;



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- iv.    An Accommodation Review Public Meeting;
- v.     Preparation and submission of an Interim Staff Report to the Board of Trustees, including a Community Consultation section;
- vi.    Public Delegations to the Board of Trustees;
- vii.   Preparation and submission of a Final Staff Report to the Board of Trustees;
- viii.   Decision by the Board of Trustees;
- ix.    Establishment of a Transition Committee.

#### **4. Exemptions**

- a) The Board is not obligated to undertake a pupil accommodation review under any of the following circumstances:
  - i.    where a replacement school is to be built by the Board on the existing site, or built or acquired within the existing school attendance boundary, as identified by the Board, including in its relevant policies;
  - ii.   where a replacement school is to be built by the Board on the existing site, or built or acquired within the existing school attendance boundary and the school community must be temporarily relocated to ensure the safety of students and staff during the reconstruction, as identified by the Board, including in its relevant policies;
  - iii.   when a lease for the school is terminated;
  - iv.   when the Board is planning the relocation (in any school year or over a number of school years) of grades or programs, in which the enrolment constitutes less than 50% of the school's enrolment (this calculation is based on the enrolment at the time of the relocation, or the first phase of a relocation carried over a number of school years);
  - v.    when the Board is repairing or renovating a school, and the school community must be temporarily relocated to ensure the safety of students during the renovations;



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- vi. where a facility has been serving as a holding school for a school community whose permanent school is over-capacity and/or is under construction or repair; or
  - vii. where there are no students enrolled at the school at any time throughout the school year.
- b) Board staff shall ensure that school communities are informed about proposed accommodation plans for students before a decision is made by the Board of Trustees to consolidate, close or move a school or students in accordance with an exemption to the pupil accommodation review process.
- c) Board staff shall prepare a report to the Board of Trustees setting out the circumstances supporting the exemption to the accommodation review process in respect of the school(s) under consideration for such exemption.
- d) Board staff shall, no fewer than five (5) business days after the Board of Trustees make a decision that such exemption applies, provide written notice to the following:
- the City of Toronto (through the Clerks' Department or equivalent);
  - other community partners that expressed an interest prior to the exemption (as defined above);
  - the coterminous school boards through the Director of Education; and
  - the Ministry of Education through the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Financial Policy and Business Division, unless the Ministry of Education has informed the Board to direct such notice to a different office.
- e) The Board will prepare a transition plan following the Board of Trustees' decision to consolidate, close or move a school or students pursuant to an exemption to the pupil accommodation review process.





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**5. Access to Pupil Accommodation Review Documents**

This Policy and Operational Procedures, together with the PARG and Administrative Review of Accommodation Review Process issued by the Minister of Education are available to the public on the Board's website and will be available upon request.

APPENDIX 'A'



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## **Definitions**

### **Accommodation Review**

A process undertaken by the Board to determine the future of a school or group of schools, as described in this Policy.

### **Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)**

An advisory committee established by the Board that represents the affected school(s) of a pupil accommodation review, which acts as the official conduit for information shared between the Board and the affected school communities.

### **Accommodation Review Public Meeting**

An open meeting held by Board staff to gather broader community feedback on a pupil accommodation review.

### **ARC Working Meeting**

A meeting of ARC members to discuss a pupil accommodation review, including the gathering of feedback from the affected school communities of a pupil accommodation review.

### **Business Day**

A calendar day that is not a weekend or statutory holiday. It also does not include days the Board is scheduled to be closed including the Board's Christmas, spring, Easter and summer break. For schools with a year-round calendar, any break that is five (5) calendar days or longer is not a business day.



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### **Consultation**

The sharing of relevant information as well as providing the opportunity for municipalities and other community partners, the public and affected school communities to be heard.

### **Facility Condition Index (FCI)**

A measure of the condition of a building as determined by the Ministry of Education by calculating the ratio between the five-year renewal needs and the replacement value for each facility.

### **On-the-Ground (OTG) Capacity**

The capacity of the school as determined by the Ministry of Education by loading all instructional spaces within the facility to current Ministry standards for class size requirements and room areas.

### **Public Delegation**

A presentation by an individual or a group of individuals to the Board of Trustees at a meeting of the Board, made in accordance with Board policies and procedures regarding public delegations, which permits the individual or group of individuals to have their concerns heard directly by the Board of Trustees.

### **Initial Staff Report (Report 1)**

A report drafted by Board staff containing option(s) and identifying a preferred option with a recommendation to Trustees with respect to a school(s) that should be subject to a pupil accommodation review process or a modified pupil accommodation review process.



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### **Interim Staff Report (Report 2)**

A report drafted by Board staff for consideration by the Board of Trustees with respect to a pupil accommodation review process, or a modified pupil accommodation review process, that also incorporates information obtained during community consultations. The Interim Staff Report may, or may not, include the same option(s) as contained in the Initial Staff Report related to a pupil accommodation review process.

### **Final Staff Report (Report 3)**

A report drafted by Board staff which contains recommendation(s) for consideration by the Board of Trustees with respect to a pupil accommodation review process, or a modified pupil accommodation review process, and which also incorporates information obtained during community consultations and from public delegations (and any staff response to such information).

### **School Information Profile (SIP)**

An orientation document with point-in-time data for each of the schools under a pupil accommodation review.