



REPORT TO

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

BUSINESS CASE FOR SAL PROGRAM EXPANSION

For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall
Isaiah 25:4

Created, Draft

November 21, 2016

First Tabling

December 1, 2016

Review

[Click here to enter a date.](#)

Vincent Burzotta, Superintendent Alternative, Continuing & International Education
Paul De Cock, Comptroller for Business Services & Finance

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

At the June 9, 2016 Regular Board Meeting, a Report and a presentation was delivered to Trustees highlighting the many successes the Supervised Alternative Program (SAL) has achieved over the last few years. As Ministry funding through Grants for Student Needs (GSN) are associated with students who are enrolled in SAL, a request was made to staff to investigate the possibility of expanding the SAL program to additional sites beyond the 2 presently in existence.

The Finance department has reviewed SAL student enrolment, staffing and facility expenditures related to the program and have concluded there are surplus funds generated by the SAL Program. Any surplus funds are redirected to support other over expended areas, in particular Special Education programs as well as Msgr. Fraser College Alternative Learning centres. This makes the case for expanding the SAL program very challenging.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to this endeavour was 24 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. As a result of a Board motion at the June 9, 2016 Regular Board meeting, staff was directed to bring a report regarding a business case model for expanding the SAL program.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Under Ontario Regulation 374/10 “*Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School*” Boards and schools can meet the needs of students aged 14-17 who do not attend school regularly.
2. Under Regulation 374/10 the SAL committee of the Board can excuse students 14-17 from full-time attendance at school if they continue to participate in a SAL program operated by the Board
3. SAL students can be both full-time and/or Part-time students or shared between the SAL program and community school.
4. Total GSN funds are calculated based on full-time and part-time status at the October 31 and March 31 Ministry count dates.

5. Students recommended for a SAL program must be approved for admission at the monthly SAL Committee meeting.
6. Students recommended for a SAL program must meet eligibility requirements of the program and are not admitted if another program better suited to their needs exists elsewhere.
7. The expansion of a SAL program would be dependent on the number of SAL eligible students which may vary from year to year.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Currently, the TCDSB offers SAL programs to TCDSB students at two (2) sites (Holy Redeemer CS and Pope Francis CS). As presented to the Board on June 9, 2016 these programs are successfully meeting the needs of enrolled students.
2. Surplus GSN revenues are fully redirected to support other over expended areas within the TCDSB Budget, in particular, Special Education programs.
3. The incremental cost of expansion of the SAL program-1 class, is \$300,000 per site, and would be taken from the board's existing budget.
4. There are no students on a wait list for SAL. The SAL Committee meets on a monthly basis to review any students considered for the program.
5. In addition to SAL programs, Msgr. Fraser College programs (16-18 programs and 18-21 programs) serve students seeking an alternative learning program.
6. Further, the Student Re-engagement initiative coordinated by the Student Success department employs a variety of strategies to bring back those students who have departed the TCDSB without earning an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
7. The SAL program, Msgr. Fraser College programs and the Student Re-engagement initiative have contributed to improved TCDSB secondary graduation rates.

8. In the event that student needs necessitate the creation of a third SAL program, the board would consider opening that program, understanding that funds would be drawn from already budgeted areas.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Ongoing internal analysis of SAL program, including: admissions, deletions and student performance.
2. Ongoing internal analysis of SAL student exit pathways to Msgr. Fraser College and/or re-entry to community schools.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This Report is for the consideration of the Board.