

To: Trustees, Toronto Catholic District School Board
From: Vinay Mehta and Halla Elias
Date: January 5, 2015

Re: Reconsideration of Admissions Policy

The TCDSB is supposed to be committed to families.

The decision to change a long standing policy of priority registration for siblings significantly changes the TCDSB's commitment to families and in particular the cohesion of the family unit.

Having our three children in potentially two or three different Catholic schools is not practical. Beyond the basic practical considerations such as geographic separation between multiple schools, your decision also impacts our relationship with the local parish because then our children are associated with multiple parishes through their respective schools thereby diminishing a familial parish. Also, with both parents working, there will be difficulty with pick-up and drop-off at different locations as well as spending time with each child at school functions.

Another consideration is the safety and support of our children. Anxiety of a child and parents will be lessened knowing that there is an elder sibling to keep an eye out for the younger sibling.

Your changes to the sibling policy will only drive families away from the TCDSB to other educational institutions whether public or private so that families can remain as one unit.

We sincerely appreciate your reconsideration of this issue and hope that you will reinstate priority registration for siblings.

Best regards,

Vinay Mehta and Halla Elias