



REPORT TO

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

EXTERNAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN THE TCDSB – POLICY S.19

"We have been created for greater things. Not just to be a number in the world, not just to go for diplomas and degrees, this work and that work. We have been created in order to love and be loved." Mother Teresa

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Review

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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.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report will provide a list of newly approved external research and a summary of findings, received as of December 16, 2016.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 40 hours.

A. PURPOSE

1. According to TCDSB Policy S.19 Research Conducted in the TCDSB, a list of approved external research is to be reported to the Board on an annual basis.
2. In February 2016, it was moved that a summary of previous external research findings be included and the policy was revised accordingly.

B. BACKGROUND

1. TCDSB Policy S.19 Research Conducted in the TCDSB, 1988, was revised and approved on May 30, 2013. It was renamed “*External Research Conducted in the TCDSB*” as it addresses requests by external institutions, organizations and individuals.
2. A listing of approved external research is provided annually to the Board. In February 2016, it was moved that a summary of previous external research findings be included where available.

C. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Any external institution, organization or individual who wants to conduct research activities in the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) must submit an application to the Board for approval. This includes people or agencies that plan to recruit research participants from schools and conduct the research off TCDSB premises.
2. Applications are submitted to the Director of Education and are reviewed by the Research Review Committee; there are four deadlines each year. Proposals are evaluated based on scholarship, educational merit, research design, demands

from school, and they are vetted within the framework of Catholic Values and the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP).

3. In accordance with professional standards, it is an expectation that all research is conducted in a manner which ensures confidentiality and anonymity of individuals and schools.
4. Any participation in an approved external research initiative by school staff, parents and students is voluntary and must include informed consent.
5. As per TCDSB Policy S.19 each year, the Research Review Committee submits a report to Board outlining the external research that was approved to be conducted at the TCDSB during the previous school year and a summary of findings, where available.
6. During the 2015-2016 school year, 11 applications were approved. These studies were in the areas of: language development, social and emotional programs, web-based tools etc., representing public and mental health agencies and universities. (**Appendix A**)

OUTCOMES OF RESEARCH STUDIES

7. It is an expectation that upon study completion, external researchers report their findings to TCDSB staff. Staff discuss findings and determine how the information can be utilized to support student achievement and well-being, if possible.
8. Reports are shared with staff within the Teaching and Learning Collaborative departments (Curriculum, Leadership and Innovation; Student Success; Safe Schools; Special Services), to discuss findings and determine how the information can be utilized to support student achievement and well-being, if possible.
9. The timeframe for external research and subsequent reporting often extends beyond the school year. Further, the research may take place in multiple locations, some studies may be examining long-term outcomes, and there are times when researchers are unable to complete the work as anticipated due to funding limitations or other disruptions.

10. Research studies from the 2012-2013 year are now fully completed. A summary of the findings from external research that was approved during the 2012-2013 is provided in **Appendix B**.

D. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

An annual report on external research will be presented to the Board.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.