

B - DRAFT PARENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS: Suggested Edits (Appendix B)

For each item on the Draft Parent Charter of Rights, the percentage of respondents who indicated “Keep” is shown and the suggested edits are provided. Overall comments are summarized in a separate section.

P1. The right to a faith based publically funded school with education grounded in Catholic doctrine, traditions and teachings for your child.

Group	% Keep
All	89%
Parent	89%
Staff	88%
<u>Suggested Edits</u> • Replace “grounded in” to “adherent to” • Add preamble “ as guaranteed under section 93 of the Constitution act • Replace “doctrine” with “values’ • Typo “publicly” • Replace “child” with “son/daughter” • Replace “Catholic doctrine” with “Catholicism” • Hyphen in “faith-based’ • Comma after “traditions” • Include Orthodox • Replace “Catholic” with “faith-based” • Delete “faith-based’	

P2. The right to opportunities for involvement in your child’s education.

Group	% Keep
All	89%
Parent	94%
Staff	79%
<u>Suggested Edits</u> • Replace “for involvement’ with “for full involvement” • Add “...and in decisions affecting the direction and quality of their education” • Add “...opportunities and responsibilities” • Replace “child” with another word • Add “... the right to recuse my child from education on topics imposed by the Ontario Board of Education and/or federal government with which I do not agree.” • Add “...within agreement of the school and not interfering in the classroom with other students” • Rewrite “offer parents opportunities for involvement as it makes sense for the school community” • Add “...active involvement”	

- Rewrite “The right, as a parent or guardian, to advocate for your child to ensure that you child has the best opportunity to achieve their potential in education”
- Add “...direct involvement” and at end add “... at least once per trimester”
- Add “...reasonable involvement”
- Add “... the right to be informed of developments in your child’s education”
- Clarify “involvement”
- Add “... in consultation with the teacher and principal”

P3. The right to ensure that your child is learning in a safe, healthy, and caring school, free of discrimination, prejudice, bullying and harassment.

Group	% Keep
All	89%
Parent	92%
Staff	85%

Suggested Edits

- Define “healthy”
- Rewrite: “The right to ensure that your child is learning in a safe, healthy, school, free of discrimination.”
- Add “... unjust discrimination”
- Add “...and free of political indoctrination”
- Add an amendment to deal with social media
- Add “...disrespect to list of things to be free of”
- Edit “caring school where discrimination.... harassment are promptly addressed”
- Add “... in the exact manner that Jesus would have shown his disciples and followers of faith”
- Add at end “... that affirms the inherent dignity of the human person inspired and committed to church teachings”
- Add at end “... and in keeping with Catholic values”
- Add at end “... where diversity is embraced and encouraged in the student body and the teaching staff”
- Add “... caring, accessible school”
- Reword “ensure” as it is not clear who is responsible for the “ensuring”
- Add “... that promotes student well-being”
- Reword “free” as it is difficult to enforce and unrealistic

P4. The right to ensure that your child’s spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, social and academic needs are appropriately met.

Group	% Keep
All	84%
Parent	89%
Staff	72%

Suggested Edits

- Delete “appropriately”
- Delete “spiritual”
- Keep only “academic” or re-organize the sentence with “academic” first
- Re-consider “ensure” as the item suggests that the parent is responsible for the “ensuring” and is unclear how this can be done
- Add at end “free of disruption caused by poor student behavior”
- Add at end “to promote a positive sense of self”
- Add “growth”
- Add “needs are fulfilled in ways that encourage a life of goodness and service”
- Add “... Catholic spiritual”
- Add “... appropriately met in a reasonable timeframe”
- Add “...are transparent and appropriately met”
- Add “cultural needs”
- Delete “physical, emotional, mental”
- Re-write: “The right to expect the Board to make efforts to support the needs of the whole child”
- Add “... in an inclusive, diverse community”
- Add “... including providing additional staff support where necessary”
- Re-write: “The right to request further resources if they feel the child’s spiritual.....are not appropriately met”
- Add “some of our child’s...”
- Add “...met by school and parents”

P5. The right to delivery of the curriculum consistent with our Catholic faith and with the provincial requirements.

Group	% Keep
All	84%
Parent	83%
Staff	86%

Suggested Edits

- Delete “and with the provincial requirements”
- Re-write “The right to delivery of the curriculum consistent with our Catholic faith and with the provincial requirements as accepted or allowed by the head of the Vatican.
- Delete “our Catholic faith and”
- Add “...provincial ELEMENTARY school requirements”
- Re-write “The right to delivery of the curriculum above the standards of the provincial requirements.”
- Think that there this should be separated into two separate rights: 1) Catholic Faith; 2) consistent with provincial requirements
- Combine this right with #1
- Add at end “and the right for the parent to restrict, for their child, any provincial curriculum they feel is detrimental and unhealthy.”

- Add at end “with additional parent communication/education to identify (and perhaps approve) when any curriculum is being changed.
- Re-write “The right to delivery of the curriculum ensuring that provincial requirements are taught in consistent with our Catholic faith”.
- Add at end “as long as the provincial guidelines are not in contrary to the Catholic morals and beliefs”.
- Add “... as long as they are not in conflict with religious teaching defended by the Charter”.
- Add “... faith while also adhering with the...”
- Add “... at the level appropriate to the child”.
- Replace “right” for “privilege”.
- Add “... our Christian/Catholic faith...”
- Add at end “but with sensitivity to other faiths and lifestyles that may exist in the room”.
- Re-write “... faith and in keeping with provincial...”
- Add at end “while also delivering learning opportunities that also support the inquiry process and student interests”.
- Delete “Catholic”

P6. The right for your child to receive appropriate materials, resources and technologies consistent with the requirements of the curriculum.

Group	% Keep
All	86%
Parent	90%
Staff	76%

Suggested Edits

- Re-write “The right for your child to receive appropriate materials, resources and technologies consistent with our Catholic faith”.
- Re-write “... appropriate text materials, resources and technologies, excluding notebooks, pencils, pens, consistent with...”
- Add at end “and accommodated for those with special learning needs”.
- Add “... up-to-date technologies...”
- Replace “Appropriate” for “necessary”.
- Add “... appropriate public funding for materials...”
- Add at end “and consistent with our faith-based teaching”.
- Add “at the level appropriate to the child”.
- Add “... the Catholic faith based curriculum”.
- Add “...receive age appropriate...”
- Add at end “and to have access to technology that is up to date”.
- Add at end “and their needs in a timely manner”.
- Add at end “or accommodation requirements due to a disability”.
- Add “... receive or request additional appropriate...”
- Add at end “and approved by the head of the Catholic diocese (or Vatican)”.
- Add “... consistent with my child’s learning needs, the AODA, the OHRC or any other pertinent legislation and with the requirements...”
- Add “... appropriate up to date materials...”

- Add at end “should not curb the initiatives of the student”.
- Replace “technologies” for “tools”.
- Add “...receive some appropriate materials...”.
- Specification is required for “materials, resources, technologies”
- Add “... technologies where available consistent...”
- Add at end “and the board budget ability”.
- Add at end “within the financial constraints of the school”.

P7. The right to communicate, to comment, to raise concern(s), or to register complaint(s) in a respectful manner to TCDSB staff, and to the Board of Trustees without fear of unjust repercussions and have your question, concern or complaint acknowledged.

Group	% Keep
All	86%
Parent	91%
Staff	78%

Suggested Edits

- Remove the “complaint” part from the right.
- Terrible drafting – I don’t need a “right” to be respectful, being respectful is something only I can choose to be or not be. You can’t make me respectful by giving me the right to be respectful. This confuses the parents’ rights with the staff’s rights. Staff have the right to be treated respectfully by the parents.
- Re-write “... repercussions and to have your communication acknowledged within 3 days and your concern/question/complaint answered within 10-15 days.
- Add at end “and for TCDSB staff to reciprocate their comments in a respectful manner to parents”.
- I would include something about a resolution that is agreed to by all parties.
- “within a reasonable time” needs to be changed to “within 24 hours or less”.
- Remove the word “register” as it sounds too formal. I would also remove the redundancy of repeating everything all over again (ie: question, concern, complaint) and instead say “matter”.
- Too long
- The concern should be allowed to be raised with a 3rd party ombudsman. Raising the concern to persons who created the problem has proved to be ineffective.
- Remove “unjust” and add “... fear of repercussions against my child...”
- Add at end “without fear of reprisals from staff or administrators”.
- Add “... complaints(s) or to request an audience with the TCDSB staff either in person or via telecommunication. Registering such a complaint or requesting an audience should be done through the office at the level at which the concern is to be addressed or audience held, in a respectful...”
- Add at end “when comments and concerns are based in fact and relate to the well being of students”.
- “Reasonable time” is vague, put a time of 48 hours.
- Understanding that once this has occurred, the issue is put to rest.
- Add at end “to follow the policy and procedures when communicating a concern or complaint”.
- Add “... manner and through appropriate channels to TCDSB...”

- You should include a “due process” here. Parents and students should speak to the teacher first, not go straight to Principals or superintendents.

P8. The right to the confidentiality of your child’s records in accordance with TCDSB policies and applicable legislation.

Group	% Keep
All	93%
Parent	94%
Staff	91%

Suggested Edits

- Re-write “The right to the confidentiality of your child’s records”.
- Combine this with #11
- Add at end “and transparency to who has access to records and ensure parental approval of that access.
- Add at end “unless waived by parent”.

P9. The right to access all your child’s education records and to meet with TCDSB staff to discuss their progress.

Group	% Keep
All	89%
Parent	92%
Staff	81%

Suggested Edits

- Delete “meet with TCDSB staff”
- Add at end “in a timely manner”.
- Add at end “extending beyond age of majority when having pre-existed the child becoming age of majority”.
- Add “... staff to discuss your child’s progress”.
- Add at end “within legal bounds and TCDSB policies”.
- Add “... records (where appropriate) and to...”.
- Add “... all of your child’s...”
- Add at end “and a right to request something in the record be changed or omitted if a parent disagrees based on lack of sufficient proof”.
- Add at end “at a mutually agreeable time”
- Is this granting them access to the records un-supervised?
- Add at end “while maintaining the privacy of other students and professional integrity of the teachers”.
- Re-write “... meet with TCDSB staff at a reasonable and mutually agreed upon rate of occurrence”.
- Add at end “and this should apply even if the teenage/child reaches the age of 18 year old”.
- Add at end “only for the subject/s needs to be improved”.
- Add “... records without advance notice and to meet with TCDSB staff within 10 days to discuss...”

- Parents should have access to their child's records at anytime.
- Add at end "during parent-teacher interview times and/or at a mutually agreed upon time with the teacher".

P10. The right to have any special needs assessments addressed by Board designated professionals within the required timelines.

Group	% Keep
All	83%
Parent	90%
Staff	64%

Suggested Edits

- Rewrite "... professionals within a timeline of two years or less".
- Add "... within reasonable and required...".
- "within the required timelines" is too vague.
- Add at end "after parental approval is received".
- Re-write "... professionals within the same grade year but no later than three months into next grade year".
- "Board designated professionals" is too vague.
- Add at end "unless the parent, teacher and principal deem it appropriate to do so at any point in time".
- Re-write "...professionals as requested by the teachers and EA".
- Add at end "meant to meet my child's immediate and/or long term needs".
- Add at end "as long as in consult with parent and student and written consent from parent".
- Add "... special and medical needs..."
- Add at end "if required with parental approval".
- Replace "board designated" to "any certified".
- Add at end "in a respectful and caring manner, always reflecting the dignity of the individual".
- Add at end "based on full transparency and disclosure to parents on frequency of support and materials reviewed".
- Define "special needs assessments"
- Add at end "and ensure any IEPs resulting from special needs assessment can be transferred over to post-secondary institutions".
- Re-write "The right to have your child's special needs supported by Board designated professionals within reasonable timelines".
- Delete "required timelines".
- Add at end "as possible".
- Re-write "The right to have any special needs assessment referrals for your child carefully considered and reviewed by Board designated professionals within appropriate and reasonable timelines".
- Add "... addressed in a manner in accordance to relevant legislation by..."
- Add at end "if deemed necessary by the school board professionals".
- Add "... addressed as determined by the aforementioned Board designated professionals".
- Re-write "The right to have any special needs assessments addressed by Board designated professionals as possible through the Board".

P11. The right to access and understand available information, consistent with Privacy Laws, about your child's school, school board, teachers, administrators, facilities, policies, procedures, and programs within a reasonable time.

Group	% Keep
All	86%
Parent	92%
Staff	70%

Suggested Edits

- Delete "understand"
- Delete "teachers, administrators"
- Add at end "Where not consistent with Privacy Laws or other measures, to be provided a prompt and respectful explanation of what is limited and what can alternatively be provided".
- Include with #9 and simplify.
- Add at end "unless waived".
- Add at end "including disciplinary action, dismissal information and qualifications".
- Add at end "(the wait time not to exceed 2 months)".
- "Reasonable time" is too vague.

P12. The right to have TCDSB rules and regulations and individual school policies applied and adhered to with transparency, consistency, fairness and compassion.

Group	% Keep
All	91%
Parent	93%
Staff	86%

Suggested Edits

- Add at end "where appropriate".
- Add at end "in an accessible format".
- Delete "consistency, fairness and compassion".
- Delete "compassion".
- Add "... consistency, consultation, fairness..."
- Add "equity"
- Add at end "without prejudice or discrimination".
- Add at end "Consistent with Catholic doctrine".
- Delete "rules/regulations".
- Add at end "and accepting the consequences of said regulations".
- Add at end "only once these policies have been transparently shared with parents".
- Add at end "and the responsibility to assist my child in adhering to these rules and regulations".
- Add "... school policies, as well as this Charter of Parents rights applied..."