

C - DRAFT STUDENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS Suggested Edits (Appendix C)

For each item on the Draft Student 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.

S1. The right to participate in decisions that affect their education and school life, where appropriate.

Group	% Keep
All	84%
Parent	88%
Staff	75%
<u>Suggested Edits</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Appropriate” is vague, examples might be needed. • Delete “where appropriate”. • Add to end “in accordance to the Catholic faith needs” • Add to end “and to be offered informed consent at all times as appropriate”. • Add in something related to developmental age or capacity. Children are not qualified to make some of these decisions. • Add “... participate, alongside family members, in decisions...” • Add “... life and accessibility needs, where...” • Add “... participate in and be informed of decisions...” • Add “The right to reasonably participate in some decisions...” • Add to end “in regards to course selections as per timelines and in regards to extracurricular activities”. 	

S2. The right to equity and inclusiveness amongst all students in the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Group	% Keep
All	85%
Parent	87%
Staff	82%
<u>Suggested Edits</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace “equity” to “equality”. • Add to end “where possible”. • Add to end “without taking away any rights of other students”. • Delete “TCDSB” • Add “accessibility” • Too broad a statement, be more specific. • Add to end “free of any discrimination”. • Add “... all Catholic students...” • Add “... students, teachers, staff in...” 	

- Add ... to the consideration of equity..." Granting one person's right to equity may end up violating another person's. It is best to temper the statement with more flexibility.

S3. The right to spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically safe, and positive school climate where one is respected and treated in a manner consistent with our Catholic values and teachings.

Group	% Keep
All	88%
Parent	89%
Staff	83%

Suggested Edits

- "A manner consistent with our Catholic values and teachings" is too vague.
- Delete "in a manner consistent with our Catholic values and teachings"
- Add to end "and reciprocated to staff".
- Delete "and teachings".
- Add "... to a spiritually..."
- Delete "spiritually"
- Add "... climate free of discrimination, prejudice, bullying and harassment where..."
- Add to end "and this respect is returned equally".
- Add to end "and with provincial/legal requirements".
- Re-write "The right to a socially, emotionally, physically safe, and positive school climate where one is respected and treated well".

S4. The right to have yearly access to available extra- curricular activities.

Group	% Keep
All	79%
Parent	87%
Staff	57%

Suggested Edits

- Replace "available" to "all".
- Add to end "when provided voluntarily by school staff".
- Add to end "based on ability level and aptitude".
- Replace "yearly" to "appropriate".
- Re-write "The right to have access each year to a variety of..."
- Re-write "The right to year round access to extra-curricular activities".
- Add to end "when and where possible".
- Softer language as this is totally dependent on staff/community volunteers.
- Add to end "barring job action".
- Add to end "except in instances when student is subject to disciplinary actions, chronic attendance issues or lack of academic achievement as per local school policies".

- Add to end “such that this access does not result in limiting the ability of other students to fully access these activities”.

S5. The right to effective and qualified instruction, including having access to the resources and adequate learning environment necessary for success.

Group	% Keep
All	85%
Parent	89%
Staff	77%

Suggested Edits

- Add to end “as available”.
- Add “... having equal access...”
- Add to end “delivered to each student based on individual needs and allowing for growth of each student”.
- Add “accessible/inclusive”.
- Add to end “and keeping in line with the Catholic doctrine”.
- Add “... to the appropriate resources...”
- Add to end “within a 21st century context”.
- Add to end “and the ability to provide feedback and ratings on teachers/instructors and staff”.
- Define “effective and qualified”.
- Re-write “... access to resources, clean, safe and adequate learning environment”.

S6. The right to elect student representation.

Group	% Keep
All	84%
Parent	87%
Staff	77%

Suggested Edits

- Add to end “when appropriate”.
- Add “... elect Catholic student...”
- Add to end “that represents the diversity within my school”.
- Add “... right to represent and elect...”
- Re-write “All schools from grade 7 up shall have student representation that will be elected by their peers and will be able to provide feedback to the school staff”.
- Representation on what? Unclear.
- Add to end “when applicable”.
- Add to end “in a secondary school”.
- Add to end “for the intermediate grades”.
- Add to end “considering staff supervision/facilitation is available”.

S7. The right for students, where legally permitted, to advocate for themselves or to choose another representative without fear of ageism or any other form of discrimination.

Group	% Keep
All	80%
Parent	83%
Staff	75%
<u>Suggested Edits</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should have this right. • Remove example of ageism and keep without specific forms of ...isms. Otherwise, be more relevant with racism/ableism, sexism. • Specify age at which this would be applicable. • Re-write "... without any form of discrimination". • Delete "choose another representative". • Re-write "The right for students to always advocate for themselves with guidance of parent/s. Students must be part of decision-making process in order for success to be attained". • Add at end "accordingly to Christian values and Catholic doctrine". • Delete "without fear of ageism or any other form of discrimination". • Why "legally permitted"? • Re-write "The right for student to advocate for themselves or where legally permitted choose another representative without fear of ageism or any other form of discrimination". • You need to specify under which circumstances a student could or would advocate for himself or herself. Against whom? A teacher? A policy? 	

S8. The right to make a phone call or communicate with their parents or designated guardian in case of personal distress or emergency.

Group	% Keep
All	78%
Parent	86%
Staff	54%
<u>Suggested Edits</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add to end "within a reasonable amount of time". • As long as it does not interfere with police investigations where appropriate. • Add to end "when and where appropriate". • Add to end "only with the knowledge of school personnel from a school phone, if it is during school hours – not from personal electronic devices". • Re-write "The right to contact parents or designed guardian before serious reprimands or forced to write letters of apologies". • Add to end "through the office staff". • Add to end "using board communication devices, not personal". • Re-write "In case of personal distress or emergency, the student will have the right to make a phone call to parents or designated guardian". • Re-write "The right to make a phone call or communicate with parents when desired". 	

- Qualify what distress of emergency is.
- Add "... right without question to make..."
- Add "in privacy"
- Add "... guardian or legal counsel in case..."
- Add to end "outside class hours (i.e. during lunch, recess, and before or after school)".
- Re-write "The right to make a phone call or communicate with parents or designated guardian when student determines communication is needed".
- Add to end "or when called into a meeting with the principal/school administrators".
- If during class time, with teacher permission.
- Add to end "and the privacy in which to do so".
- Add to end "regardless of TCDSB staff opinion and their possible bias or discrimination".
- Add to end "where warranted".
- In the classroom? In the hallway? Too vague.
- Re-write "... personal distress on a designated phone and/or in compliance with the school board's BYOD Policy".

S9. The right to have school rules and regulations applied and adhered to with consistency, fairness, and compassion.

Group	% Keep
All	88%
Parent	90%
Staff	82%

Suggested Edits

- Add to end "regardless of any learning identification".
- Add to end "and transparency!"
- Add to end "administered justly".
- Pick one – consistency or compassion – because they are totally different things.
- Add to end "free of any form of discrimination".
- Replace "fairness" with "Equity".
- Add to end "and be accepting of the consequences that may result".
- Add to end "without prejudice or discrimination".
- Add to end "where such rules are agreed to by, and not in conflict with, the directives of the student's parent".
- Eliminate the last part.
- Add "... fairness, equity, and..."
- Delete "compassion".

S10. The right to engage in a respectful dialogue with the school Principal and staff, raising comments and concerns as well as to have them addressed.

Group	% Keep
All	85%

Parent	88%
Staff	76%
<p><u>Suggested Edits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add to end “in a timely manner”. • Add to end “with a reasonable time”. • Add to end “within two weeks after addressed”. • Add to end “at mutually agreed upon times”. • Add to end “without fear of ridicule, reprimand or embarrassment”. • Add to end “as well as request their parents to be present for such discussions”. • Add “... them respectfully addressed”. • Add to end “without reprisal or repercussions” • Add to end “without fear of being blacklisted or labeled”. • Perhaps add something about giving student opportunity to have an advocated or peer with them as support. • Re-write “... and staff, and to raise comments and concerns and have them addressed”. • Add “... a mutually respectful dialogue...” • Re-write “The right to engage in mutually respectful dialogue with the school principal and/or staff members and the right to the respectful resolution of issues brought forth”. • Re-write “to engage in a mutually respectful dialogue... as well as to have them addressed in a reasonable timeframe”. • Replace “school principal and staff” with “school staff” – Don’t make it specific. • Add “... in a reasonable and respectful...” • “... as well to have them addressed” seems both vague and very broad in scope. • Principal often cannot address the way parents would like to see due to contracts and protocols. This should be reflected in the wording. • Delete “as well to have them addressed” perhaps “acknowledged is a more appropriate word to use. • Add “... raising legitimate comments...” • Add to end “not including attacks of a personal nature against such persons”. 	