



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

STATUS OF WAITLIST FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ALL WARDS

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1 / NIV /

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| October 10, 2017 | October 19, 2017 | Click here to enter a date. |

J. Genova, Coordinator Human Resources and ICT Support Services

J. Volek, Acting Comptroller of Planning and Development Services

INFORMATION REPORT

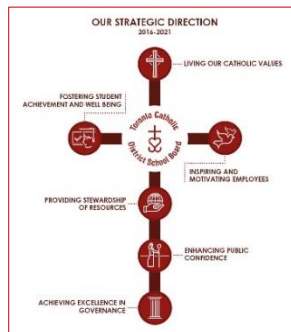
Vision:

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.



Rory McGuckin

Director of Education

D. Koenig

Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio

Associate Director
of Planning and Facilities

T.B.D.

Executive Superintendent
of Business Services and
Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Planning and Admissions staff worked closely with the IT department to assemble and summarize current student waitlist information, with a particular focus on identifying oversubscribed elementary and secondary schools with larger numbers of waitlisted students.

Analysis of current student waitlist information indicates that many elementary students who were not accommodated in their first school of choice, but offered redirection to a nearby school with available space, opted to remain on a waitlist.

As of October 5, 2017, 3404 new elementary students have been registered and are attending 47 oversubscribed schools across the system. However, 185 elementary Regular program students and 125 elementary French Immersion (FI) program students opted to remain on waitlists, representing 310 students in total. Of these 310 elementary waitlisted students, approximately 70% represent Priorities 1 through to 3.

As of September 30, 2017, 249 secondary grade 9 students, representing 88% of grade 9 students from three (3) secondary schools, opted to remain on waitlists, with much smaller numbers of students representing other grades. All of these waitlisted students have been identified as coming from TDSB, private schools and other boards.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 35 hours.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Trustees with an update on the numbers of students currently on waitlists in all TCDSB schools.

C. BACKGROUND

1. **September 8, 2016** – At the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee, a Trustee motion directed staff to report on the wait lists for all elementary schools that are oversubscribed. This report is now part of an **on-going mandate** to regularly update the Board of Trustees on the status of waitlists.

2. As of October 5, 2017, elementary enrolment is 163 students under Board approved consensus projections. Furthermore, 3404 new students, to date, have been registered and are attending 47 oversubscribed schools across the system.
3. Several schools in the system have dealt with overwhelming demand for classroom space, whereby demand exceeded available classroom space. This situation continues today, as clearly identified in the tables in following section.
4. Students who are unsuccessful in gaining admission to their designated elementary home school, or first school of choice, are redirected to a nearby Catholic school with space or they are given the option of being placed on a waitlist in order of priority and by time and date of application.
5. There are no guarantees of admission at any level of priority, however, the Planning and Facilities department, in partnership with the school principal, makes every effort to ensure that space at any school is fully utilized. Furthermore, any school where there is potential for the placement of portables will be assessed in an effort to accommodate as many students as possible. Facilities staff will also assess schools with pupil accommodation challenges and make any suggestions for internal modifications in an effort to increase overall capacity. The overriding objective is to accommodate all students wherever possible.
6. Opportunities for elementary boundary adjustments will be considered in an effort to keep pace with demographic change. The common practice of grandfathering existing out-of-boundary enrolled students, combined with boundary adjustments, however, will not have sizeable or significant impacts on enrolment for several years as out-of-boundary grandfathered students must graduate out of the school to free-up space for new in-boundary students and any new siblings.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

7. As of October 5, 2017, 185 elementary Regular program students and 125 French Immersion (FI) program students opted to remain on waitlists, representing 310 total elementary students in oversubscribed schools.

8. Of the 310 total elementary waitlisted students in oversubscribed schools:
- 2 represent Priority 1 (siblings)
 - 74 represent Priority 2 (in-boundary), and
 - 142 represent Priority 3 (in regional FI program boundary)

This equates to 218 students or 70% of waitlisted elementary students.

- Tables 1 and 2 below summarize Regular program waitlists.
- Tables 3 and 4 below summarize French Immersion (FI) program waitlists.

Regular Program, 47 Oversubscribed Schools (FDK-8)

| <u>Table 1</u> | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Admissions Priority (description) | Number of New Students Registered and Attending | Current Total Number of Students on a Waitlist | Current Number of Students on a Waitlist Attending Another TCDSB School | Current Number of Students on a Waitlist <u>Not</u> Attending a TCDSB School |
| 1 (siblings) | 859 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2 (in-boundary) | 1912 | 66 | 8 | 58 |
| 3 (out-of-boundary, licenced child care) | 52 | 38 | 9 | 29 |
| 4 (out-of-boundary, unlicensed child care) | 21 | 11 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 (out-of-boundary) | 302 | 64 | 24 | 40 |
| 6 (outside the City of Toronto) | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Total (FDK-8): | 3154 | 185 | 44 | 141 |
| Total FDK only: | 2039 | 88 | 27 | 61 |

9. The following 11 of 47 **oversubscribed** elementary schools have a Regular program student waitlist of 6 or more students:

| <u>Table 2</u> | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Oversubscribed School Name | Number of New Students Registered and Attending | Current Total Number of Students on a Waitlist | Current Number of Students on a Waitlist Attending Another TCDSB School | Current Number of Students on a Waitlist <u>Not</u> Attending a TCDSB School |
| Our Lady of Sorrows | 98 | 49 | 23 | 26 |
| St. Marcellus | 87 | 16 | 3 | 13 |
| St. Pius X | 73 | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| St. Benedict | 93 | 11 | 2 | 9 |
| St. Gregory | 92 | 10 | 4 | 6 |
| St. Andrew | 92 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| St. Cecilia | 40 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| St. Cyril | 0 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| St. Michael | 17 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| Our Lady of Lourdes | 98 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| St. Brendan | 62 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| Other * | 2402 | 41 | 4 | 37 |
| Total (FDK-8): | 3154 | 185 | 44 | 141 |
| Total FDK only: | 2039 | 88 | 27 | 61 |

***Note:** “Other” represents the remainder of oversubscribed schools with waitlists less than 6 students.

French Immersion (FI) Program, Oversubscribed Schools (FDK-8)

| <u>Table 3</u> Admissions Priority (description) | Number of New FI Students Registered and Attending | Current Total Number of FI Students on a Waitlist | Current Number of FI Students on a Waitlist Attending Another TCDSB School | Current Number of FI Students on a Waitlist <u>Not</u> Attending a TCDSB School |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1 (siblings) | 96 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 (in regular program boundary) | 78 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 (in regional FI program boundary) | 72 | 104 | 44 | 60 |
| 4 (out-of-boundary, licenced child care) | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 5 (out-of-boundary, unlicensed child care) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 (out-of-boundary) | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 (outside the City of Toronto) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total FI (FDK-8): | 250 | 125 | 50 | 75 |
| Total FDK FI only: | 224 | 103 | 43 | 60 |

10. The following **oversubscribed** elementary schools have a French Immersion program student waitlist, with nearly all of these students falling within their respective regional FI program boundaries (Priority 3).

| <u>Table 4</u> | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Oversubscribed School Name | Number of New FI Students Registered and Attending | Current Total Number of FI Students on a Waitlist | Current Number of FI Students on a Waitlist Attending Another TCDSB School | Current Number of FI Students on a Waitlist <u>Not</u> Attending a TCDSB School |
| Our Lady of Peace | 51 | 36 | 23 | 13 |
| St. Cecilia | 48 | 36 | 10 | 26 |
| St. Benedict | 30 | 24 | 0 | 24 |
| Holy Rosary | 25 | 20 | 12 | 8 |
| St. Cyril | 49 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| James Culnan | 47 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total FI (FDK-8): | 250 | 125 | 50 | 75 |
| Total FI FDK only: | 224 | 103 | 43 | 60 |

11. As part of due diligence, Admissions staff regularly follow-up with schools to determine the status of their waitlists. It was noted that some parents were not interested in redirection and elected to remain in private schools or in their local Catholic or public school until the next TCDSB registration period.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

12. As of September 30, 2017, 334 grade 9 students opted to remain on waitlists. Of the 249 secondary grade 9 waitlist students, 88% represent Bishop Allen, Father John Redmond and Senator O'Connor, or 100, 53 and 58 students respectively. Furthermore, all 249 students are identified as coming from the TDSB, private schools and other boards. The table below provides a summary of secondary student waitlist totals for all grades.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Number of Students Placed | 6408 |
| Grade 9 Student Waitlist | 249 |
| Grade 10 Student Waitlist | 28 |
| Grade 11 Student Waitlist | 36 |
| Grade 12 Student Waitlist | 21 |
| Total Waitlist | 334 |

13. Contributing to the success of the grade 8 to grade 9 secondary school application process are the efforts made between elementary school administration, secondary school administration, and the Admissions team. Every effort is made to accommodate and retain students transitioning to grade 9.
14. In some cases, the Board’s ability to retain students is beyond its control, as evidenced by families moving out of Toronto or Canada, or families making the decision to attend other boards or independent schools for various personal reasons. Even with these extraneous factors, the TCDSB has retained an average of 87.3% of our grade 8 students into grade 9 over the past 6 years.

E. ACTION PLAN

15. **February 23, 2017** – At the Regular Board meeting, the Board approved the Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP). The LTAP calls for significant Capital investments over 15 years (subject to Ministry funding) to increase OTG capacity in areas where there is oversubscription—this includes “right-sized” replacement schools, additions, and retrofits.
16. Careful analysis of historical enrolment trends helped to inform future program direction in the Long-Term Program Plan (LTPP). In addition to the five (5) new elementary French Immersion (FI) programs and one (1) new secondary FI program successfully implemented this year, staff are currently consulting with parent communities on the possible implementation another five (5) new elementary FI programs and one (1) new secondary FI program—this is anticipated to have a net effect of reducing FI enrolment pressures across the system over time.

17. The Board will also continue to seek solutions to increase capacity in schools that are oversubscribed through its ongoing efforts to secure new Ministry funding for Capital construction and/or balancing enrolment and maximizing available classroom space.
18. Admissions and IT staff, in consultation with Education Council and Early Learning, developed a voluntary waitlist survey that is automatically e-mailed to all families on waitlists via the SOAR application. Staff will report to Board on the results of the survey in a future report.
19. In addition, summary results of voluntary Entry and Exit surveys are now available to be shared with Trustees on an on-going basis.
20. This report will be updated on a yearly basis by the Admissions Department in consultation with Education Council in order to track our success in the accommodation of all students.
21. Staff are in the process of conducting and audit of grade 9 enrolment caps in preparation for the next secondary registration cycle.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board and.