



REPORT TO

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

### EXTERNAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN THE TCDSB - POLICY S.19 FEBRUARY 2018 UPDATE

*“An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”*  
*Proverbs 18:15 (NRSVCE)*

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#### INFORMATION REPORT

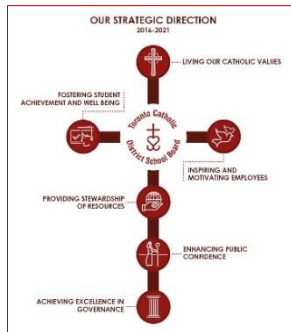
**Vision:**

*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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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides the annual list of approved external research and a summary of findings or previous research projects received as of December 31, 2017. Appendix A lists applications that were newly approved, in 2016-2017. Appendix B provides a description of findings from external research approved in 2013-2014.

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

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. According to TCDSB Policy S.19 Research Conducted in the TCDSB, a list of approved external research and a summary of findings from completed research is to be reported annually to the Board.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. In Ontario, it is a professional expectation within the field of education that school boards support external research activities for the purpose of gaining insights into various aspects of education. TCDSB Policy S.19 Research Conducted in the TCDSB (first developed in 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. As per TCDSB Policy S.19, each year, there is an annual report to Board outlining the external research that was approved to be conducted at the TCDSB during the previous school year. In February 2016, it was moved that a summary of previous external research findings be included where available.

## **D. 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 outside of 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. Any participation in an approved external research initiative by school staff, parents and students is voluntary and must include informed consent.
4. During the 2016-2017 school year, 12 applications were approved. These studies were in various areas including, social and emotional programs, web-based tools, numeracy, and they represented research from public and mental health agencies and universities. Appendix A provides a summary of approved applications.
5. The timeframe for external research and subsequent reporting often extends beyond the school year (e.g., research takes place in multiple locations, 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). Appendix B provides a summary of the findings from external research that was approved during the 2013-2014 school year.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. An annual report on approved external projects is presented for the information of the Board (see Appendix A).
2. It is an expectation that upon study completion, all external researchers provide a copy of any report they write describing their findings. A summary of findings from completed projects appears in Appendix B. Reports are shared with staff within the various departments (e.g., Teaching and Learning Collaborative Curriculum, Leadership and Innovation; Student Success; Safe Schools; Special Services; Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education) to consider results and application (see Appendix B).

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.