

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK – OCTOBER 21-25, 2019**  
**#LocalGovWeek**

**Did you know...?**

- School board trustees are members of a district school board. They are locally-elected representatives of the public, and they are the community's advocates for public education. School trustees are of the community, by the community and for the community.
- School board trustees are the oldest form of elected representation in Ontario. Since 1807, generations of community-minded citizens have made decisions on behalf of local, publicly funded schools, building the foundation of the system we have today.
- The election of school board trustees is governed by the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. Both are the laws or rules that trustees follow.
- There are different kinds of trustees:
  1. Trustees elected every four years during municipal and school board elections, including 317 publicly elected trustees representing 31 public English school boards and ten school authorities across Ontario.
  2. Indigenous Trustees appointed to the board by their First Nation. There are 15 appointed trustees among the 31 public English school boards across Ontario.
  3. Student Trustees elected by the student body of the board. The Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) represents more than two million students.
  4. Hospital Board Trustees are appointed by the Minister of Education for a term of four years, on the same term cycle as publicly elected trustees.
- The Kindergarten-Grade 12 education sector is the second-largest recipient of provincial funding, after healthcare. The provincial government invests more than \$24.6 billion each year in education. Public school trustees oversee budgets ranging from approximately \$42 million to \$3.4 billion.
- Many MPs, MPPs, Mayors and Municipal Councillors began their political careers as school board trustees.
- The next municipal election will be held on October 24, 2022.
- The Ontario Public School Boards' Association, which represents 31 public district school boards and 10 public school authorities across Ontario serving more than 1.3 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario. OPSBA is seen as the credible voice of public education in Ontario and is routinely called on by the provincial government for input and advice on legislation and the impact of government policy directions.

## **About Ontario's Public Education System**

- Preparing students to become productive and contributing citizens is the foundation of a civil society.
- Ontario's English public district school boards provide universally accessible education for all students, regardless of their ethnic, racial, or cultural backgrounds; social or economic status; gender; individual exceptionality; or religious preference.
- School Boards are responsible for student achievement and well-being, for ensuring effective stewardship of the board's resources and for delivering effective and appropriate education programs for their students.
- The English public system is founded on the principle of equity of educational opportunity: every student deserves an opportunity to achieve to his or her fullest potential.
- Public school boards provide high standards in their programs and ensure that there are supports and resources to help all students reach those standards.
- Public school boards also focus on character education to ensure that students develop as caring and responsible members of their community and of Canadian society as a whole. Character education embraces values such as Citizenship, Cooperation, Courage, Empathy, Fairness, Honesty, Humility, Inclusiveness, Initiative, Integrity, Kindness, Optimism, Perseverance, Resilience, Respect, and Responsibility.
- English public district school boards, in partnership with parents and caregivers, prepare students for success in whatever field they choose.

## **What are the "rules" for school?**

- In Ontario, children and youth between the ages of six and 18 must be enrolled in a formal education program. The province's *Education Act* and the regulations made under it establish the framework for the delivery of education programs.
- An Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requires students to complete 30 credits (18 compulsory, 12 optional), pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test and fulfill 40 hours of community involvement activities. Students who leave school before earning the OSSD may be granted the Ontario Secondary School Certificate.

## **What is a School Board Trustee?**

School board trustees are the oldest form of elected representation in Ontario. The office has been in existence since 1807 and represents citizens in the education decision-making process. School boards trustees are locally and democratically elected. School board trustees are the only publicly elected official with the direct responsibility for the education of our children.

School board trustees are communicators, problem solvers and most importantly, advocates for public education.

## **Toronto District School Board**

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is the largest and one of the most diverse school boards in Canada. TDSB serves approximately 246,000 students in 582 schools throughout Toronto, and more than 140,000 life-long learners in our Adult and Continuing Education programs. With over 40% of TDSB graduates ranking as Ontario Scholars (over 80% average), more than 80% of our graduates go on to university or college.

In the TDSB, student success drives everything we do.

Every student deserves a great education and student learning and well-being must be at the centre of every decision made. TDSB's focus is ensuring that all students can succeed by having equitable access to programs and resources and increased opportunities that lead to enhanced learning outcomes. The TDSB has an annual operating budget of \$3.4 billion.

In May 2018, the TDSB passed a Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) that sets direction and identifies five system goals that drive our work:

- Transform student learning
- Create a culture for student and staff well-being
- Provide equity of access to learning opportunities for all students
- Allocate human and financial resources strategically to support student needs
- Build strong relationships and partnerships within school communities to support student learning and well-being

A strong and effective governance ensures that Trustees have the appropriate supports they need to serve in their role as elected officials. The Board of Trustees sets direction for the system and works closely with senior team in the best interests of students, schools and communities. They are advocates for education and are the voice of the public, ensuring all concerns are addressed.

## TDSB Trustees

Every four years, 22 public school Trustees are elected during municipal elections to represent public school supporters in the City of Toronto. TDSB Trustees work to ensure that all of our students realize their potential and succeed. Each Trustee represents one of TDSB's 22 wards. Each ward is a diverse community with unique needs, priorities and educational requirements and Trustees represent their communities. Board policies, set by Trustees, provide important direction to the system and engage our public so their voices are heard. The Trustees meet as a Board on a regular basis and also participate on organized standing committees.

### In addition to establishing policies, the Board of Trustees:

- Sets budgets and allocates resources
- Formulates plans for the Board and sets priorities to reflect community values and goals
- Supports and monitors student achievement
- Oversees matters related to Board facilities
- Recruits and evaluates a Director of Education
- Collaborates with all levels of government in the best interest of constituents and public policy
- Board meetings begin with an acknowledgement of Traditional and Ancestral lands of Aboriginal peoples.

## People in a School Board

- **Trustees** play a key leadership role in ensuring that schools operate within the standards established by the province, and that the programs and services remain responsive to the communities they serve.
- The **Director of Education** is the chief executive officer and chief education officer of the school board. The director is the sole employee who reports directly to the board and acts as secretary of the board.
- **Supervisory Officers**, often called superintendents, are accountable to the director of education for the implementation, operation, and supervision of educational programs in their schools.
- **Principals** are the educational leaders within their school communities and ensure that the programs that are in place are effective and align with board and ministry policies.
- **Teachers** are the front-line representatives of the education system. Their many activities go beyond instruction and include encouraging students to pursue learning, maintaining classroom discipline, and evaluating students' learning and progress.
- **Education Workers** include a whole range of people that support students and keep a safe and healthy school environment. Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators, Caretakers, School Secretaries, Social Workers, and Speech and Language Pathologists are just some of these.
- **Parents/Caregivers** are critical in the support they provide in the overall education of our students.
- **Students** are the most important stakeholders in our system.

**Important and Current Issues in Education in Ontario:**

- Student Achievement
- Student Mental Health and Well-Being
- Equity and Diversity
- Class Size and Mandatory E-learning
- Indigenous Education
- Special Education
- Student Transportation
- Mathematics Curriculum
- Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Capital and Local Priority Funding
- Facilities (Repair and Backlog)
- Collective Bargaining
- Child Care / Before-and-After School Programming
- EQAO review
- Student nutrition
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- French-as-a-Second Language

## Appendix – Information from Financial Facts

# TDSB Student Demographics

The information below provides a demographic breakdown of students. Information on gender, home language, and student place of birth comes from the TDSB School Information System (SIS) and is updated annually. Information on ethno-racial background and parent place of birth comes from the TDSB Student Census (2016-17).

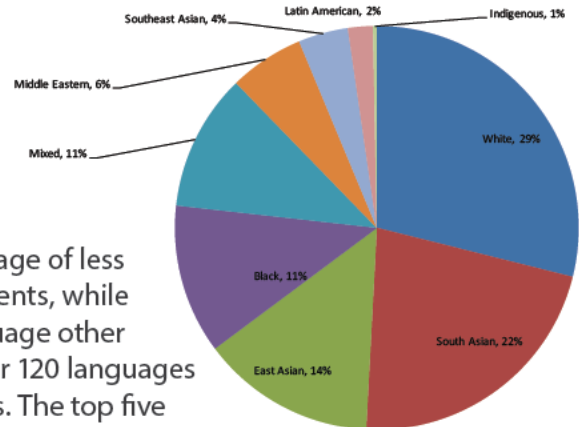
### Gender

According to the Board's student registration database, there are slightly more male than female students attending TDSB schools, especially at the secondary panel.

	JK-Gr. 6	Gr. 7-8	Gr. 9-12	Total
Female	49%	48%	48%	48%
Male	51%	52%	52%	52%

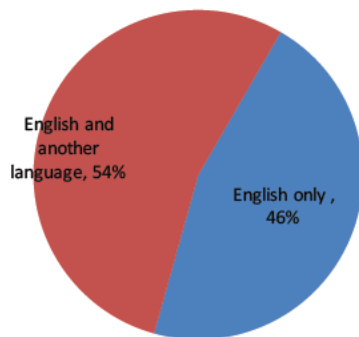
### Ethno-Racial Background

In the TDSB, the four largest self-identified racialized groups are White (29%), South Asian (22%), East Asian (14%), Black (11%). The remaining population consists of other groups including Middle Eastern, Southeast Asian, Latin American and Indigenous.



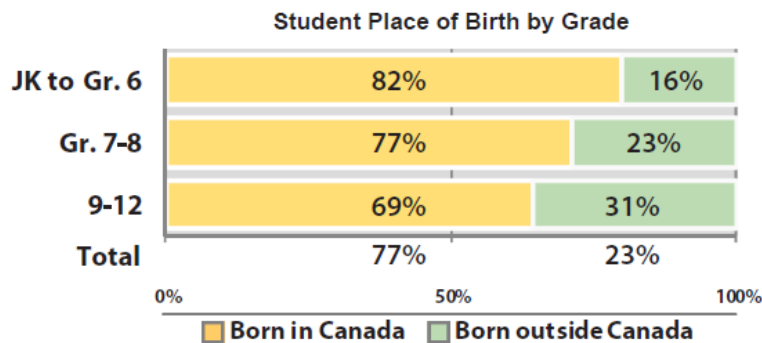
### Home Language

English is the sole first language of less than half (46%) of TDSB students, while over half (54%) speak a language other than English. Altogether, over 120 languages are spoken by TDSB students. The top five non-English languages spoken are: Chinese (9%), Tamil (5%), Urdu (4%), Bengali (3%) and Arabic (3%).



### Student Place of Birth

Over three quarters of TDSB students (77%) were born in Canada. The proportion of students born in Canada varies with more students in JK-Grade 6 (82%) reported as Canadian-born compared to students in Grades 7-8 (77%), and secondary school students (69%). Slightly under a quarter of TDSB students (23%) immigrated to Canada from over 190 countries. The top five countries of students' birth other than Canada are: China (2%), India (2%), United States (2%), Philippines (2%), and Pakistan (1%).



### Parent Place of Birth

About one quarter of the students have both parents who are Canadian-born, while 12% of students have one parent born in Canada and the other outside Canada. The majority (nearly two-thirds) of TDSB students are from immigrant families with both of their parents born outside Canada (64%). Further analysis indicates that over 80% of the visible minority students are of immigrant background - that is, with two parents born outside Canada.

## TDSB Facts

Projected 2018-19

### Number of Schools

Elementary	447
Secondary	73
Alternative Schools	39
Special Education Self-Contained Schools	12
Other (EdVance, Caring and Safe Schools, Native Learning Centres)	11
<b>Total Number of Schools</b>	<b>582</b>

Number of Board Use Buildings (including office, warehouse and distribution centres)	14
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### Overall Budget and School Enrolment and Staffing

Operating Budget	\$3.374B
Capital Budget (as of 2018-19 budget)	\$0.453B
Total Enrolment (Regular Day School)	242,423
Total Teachers Including Teaching Vice Principals	15,758
Total Early Childhood Educators	1,238
Total Principals and Vice Principals	902
Total School Office Clerical	1,052
Total Caretakers	2,183