Impact of COVID-19 Update

February 9, 2021

Toronto District School Board

Agenda

- Toronto Public Health Update

- Elementary Switch Update
  - Karen, Diana, Ian, Shirley and Ross

- Device Distribution Update
  - Peter

- COVID Federal Funding Update
  - Craig

Toronto Public Health Update

- Dr. Vinita Dubey

  Associate Medical Officer of Health

- Nicole Welch, COVID-19 Liaison Team,

  Public Health Director

  Chief Nursing Officer

Elementary Switch Update

- Context - Learning Centre Executive Superintendents

- The families of **6126 elementary students** have their request to switch

- Virtual School to Bricks & Mortar (in-person): **2310 requests**

- Bricks & Mortar (In-Person) to Virtual School/Learning: **3816 requests**

- Principals, Superintendents and the Executive Team looked at local virtual learning models and in most cases it was not possible without significant disruption

- At this time, **1525 student requests** to move to Bricks & Mortar (In-Person, Regular Program) have been facilitated

Elementary Switch Update

- All Human Rights and Quintile 5 requests for Regular Program will be facilitated in Virtual Learning/Virtual School.

- Students in Intensive Support Programs will be given intentional care with their transition from Virtual School to In-Person School. In-Person Principals will contact families to welcome and confirm students moving back to their home-school and discuss appropriate supports for a seamless transition.

- There is limited movement available either way for students in French Programs. Priority for French Programs will also be given to Human Rights and Quintile 5.

Technical Aspects Impacting Transitions Timing

Students Switching into/out of Virtual

Virtual School and Bricks and Mortar will Work In Partnership to Transition Students Both Ways:

- Students will automatically be assigned to their new virtual classroom (Brightspace classroom learning environment)
  - If the teacher is using Google Classroom, then the teacher will need to add students manually to their Google Classroom roster.
- Of note, students returning to bricks and mortar schools will no longer have access to their original Brightspace classroom in virtual school after the transfer has occurred (**think of this as their classroom desk**)
  - Teachers and students will still need access for the parent-teacher conferences that take place on PA Day on Friday, February 12, therefore **cannot be demitted before** end of day February 12 (**or they won't have access to the work that is sitting in their desk to share**)
  - Students cannot be registered until after the end of the day on February 12

Connecting Families and Schools

Students Switching into/out of Virtual

- The scheduled switch date for students going to Virtual School or Virtual Learning will be **initiated** on **Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

- Virtual School Teachers will be reaching out to families on Tuesday, February 16 to welcome students into virtual classes and share login information

- Daily instruction for students new to Virtual School or local virtual learning hubs will commence during the week of February 16 - 19

- Asynchronous activities will be available during the transition period

- Ongoing communication between Bricks and Mortar (In-Person) and Virtual School will continue to support a smooth transition for students and families

Elementary Switch Update: Parent Communications

January 29: Communication with parents/guardians regarding switching opportunity, the survey, confirmation of switch request and next steps in process

February 4: Communication to families who requested a switch regarding how the switching process will work, how families will be contacted, time lines and Q&A (communications and Q&A translated into 20 languages)

February 9 - 19: Communication confirming switch request via in-person school and Virtual School administrators, and "on-boarding"/welcoming communication/information including preparation for Virtual School learning and virtual learning hubs

February 12: Communication to all parents/guardians that requested a switch indicating that if they have not received confirmation of their switch request, as of this date, their child should continue to attend their in-person or virtual school classroom

February 19: As transitions will be implemented throughout next week, this will be the last day that families will learn if their child's switch will be possible

Elementary Switch Update: Timeline

December 2020 – January 2021
Parent/Guardian Switching Survey for elementary families completed

January 2021
Switching models created and presented to Trustees at Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on January 26

Late January – Early February 2021
Critical path and next steps established and implementation process begins

STEPS 1&2

February 1st and 2nd
- Principals confirm switch requests with families and finalize lists
- Principals determine how many requests to return to in-person (in-school) can be met within current classes/grades

STEP 5

February 4th and 5th
- Elementary Virtual School coordinates transfer of approved switches and identifies available classroom spaces for students

STEP 3

February 2nd - 4th
- Principals determine how many requests for virtual learning can be met by the school
- Principals develop possible virtual learning model with other local schools (if necessary to meet switch requests)

STEP 6

Ongoing
- Principals at local schools revisit availability of in-person spaces and determine if more switch requests can be accommodated (ongoing until as many requests as possible are met)

STEP 7

February 9th - 19th
- Families notified if switch request for their child is possible or not and provided more information and details related to the transition (if request approved)

STEP 4

February 5th
- Students from high-risk COVID areas/schools are prioritized to potentially move into Elementary Virtual School (VS) (where schools cannot meet the needs locally)

STEP 8

Transition
- A time of transition will be required too complete switches as students access technology, learn to login, etc. There is a minimum 24-hour turnaround to access online learning platorms (e.g. Brightspace)

9

COVID Funding Update

Feb. 1, 2021 Ministry B01 Memo Announcement:

- Second Allocation of Federal Safe Return to Class Fund
- Total to Date: $381M Provincially
- Announcement Total: $199.4M (For All School Boards)
- TDSB received $24.4M or 12.2% of Total Allocated
- School boards have been requested to inform Ministry of intended expenses on materials to allow for group purchases through the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) and Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS)
- TDSB's allocation is comprised of $9.4M for technology, $6.9M for air quality and ventilation, $7.8M for health & safety and $0.3M for student transportation.

COVID Funding Update

Technological Devices - $9.4M

- This funding will support previous purchases made by the board and additional purchases of approx. 20,000 devices in the amount of $5.7M. Remaining funds to be used towards Board funded expenditures.

Improving Air Quality and Ventilation - $6.9M

- $6.9M will be used to purchase an additional 8,500 HEPA filter units.
- $3.5M has been spent HEPA filters, (3,563 units received with another 470 units on order), mechanical system filter changes and HVAC recommissioning.
- Remaining funds from the first instalment (approx. $3.8M) will be used to address HVAC recommissioning deficiencies.

Health and Safety - $7.8M

- Funds will be used to offset purchases not supplied through MGCS.

Transportation - $0.3M

- Offset PPE and Health & Safety costs to be incurred by bus operators.

Device Distribution Update

Device Requests Received Since September 2020

Total Requests Received:	18,259
Device only Requests:	16,522
Device + Internet Requests:	1,319
Internet only Requests:	418

Requests from Students Enrolled in Virtual School:	13,439
Requests from Students NOT in Virtual School:	4,820

All Virtual School Requests as of Feb 5th has been fulfilled

Device Distribution Update

Technology Purchases Since September 2020

Device Type	Technology purchases through school budget		Centrally purchased and delivered to schools		Devices bought for Virtual school	
	Volume	Cost	Volume	Cost	Volume	Cost
Chromebooks:	14,856	$4.37M	21,436	$5.74M	8,712	$2.38M
iPads:	2,107	$848K			1500	$677K
New Laptops:	2,554	$1.5M			80	$57.6K
Used Laptops:	797	$283K				
Wi-Fi Hubs:	46	$9K			170	$34.6K
Grand Total:	20,036	$7.06M	21,436	$5.74M	10,462	$3.15M

Questions?