

Director's Annual Report

2014





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2014 - 2018

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Message from the Director

The Toronto District School Board is an ambitious, confident and caring school board that serves approximately 249,000 students at nearly 600 school sites each and every day. We couldn't be more proud of our students' academic achievement and well-being this year.

Following a year of hard work and dedication, I am proud of the accomplishments we have made as part of the *Years of Action 2013-2017* plan. In November 2013, we introduced 36 goals and we were able to make important gains this year as most of our key initiatives for 2014 were implemented. These were impressive targets and without the ongoing dedication of staff, our goals would not have been realized.

In 2014 we have achieved:

- The development of a comprehensive K-12 Mathematics Strategy to improve learning and achievement;
- The complete preparation and implementation of Full Day Kindergarten at 402 sites across the TDSB; and,
- The successful roll out of a new TDSB brand standard that included the launch of social media tools and a refreshed website.

Although we have had a successful year in our schools and communities, we still have some work to do. In the coming year, we are focusing on:

- A full Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Strategy implementation throughout the system;
- Rolling out a staff leadership and learning strategy where talent growth and professional development opportunities are provided; and,
- Enhancing Aboriginal Education for all students and staff.

As we continue to look forward, we will work every day to ensure that our students remain the top priority of all that we do. I am confident that the TDSB has the best team of dedicated and expert staff, Trustees and community members to make these important gains.

Donna Quan
Director of Education

A young man with dark hair and glasses is smiling broadly. He is wearing a bright green t-shirt with the letters 'ACHT' visible. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a classroom.

Enrolment and other snapshots

Enrolment*

- Elementary: 172,075
- Full-Day Kindergarten: 36,084 (17,762 in JK and 18,322 in SK)
- Secondary: 76,814
- Total: 248,889

*Head count as of October 31, 2014

Class Size

- 76% of all elementary schools with a Kindergarten program offer Full-Day Kindergarten
- As of September 2014 that number reached 100%
- 87% of primary classes (JK- Grade 3) had 20 or fewer students
- 100% of primary classes (JK- Grade 3) had 23 or fewer students
- The average class size in Full-Day Kindergarten classes was 25.3 students
- The average class size in Grade 4-8 classes was 23.23 students

Languages

- 42.6% of TDSB students use English as their primary home language
- 57.4% of TDSB students speak a language other than English at home
- Over 110 languages are spoken by TDSB students

Ethno-Racial Background

- 29% of students identify as White
- 24% South Asian
- 15% East Asian
- 12% Black
- 9% Mixed
- 5% Middle Eastern
- 4% Southeast Asian
- 2% Latin American
- 0.3% of students identify as Aboriginal

For more information please visit:

www.tdsb.on.ca/EnvironmentalScan

EQAO

Over the past five years, the percentage of all Grade 9 students who performed at or above the provincial standard increased 1% in academic mathematics and 8% in applied mathematics. During that same period, the percentage of all students in Grade 3 who performed at or above the provincial standard, increased 11% in reading and 10% in writing, and the percentage of all Grade 6 students who performed at or above the provincial standard increased 8% in reading and 9% in writing.

We sustained a high level of achievement in literacy at the Grade 10 level with 82% of students achieving successful results. We also made considerable gains in increasing the achievement levels for students with Special Education needs (excluding gifted) and English Language Learners.

Education for Sustainable Development Update

Learning environments that are safe, welcoming, caring, clean and healthy are conducive to students' academic success and well-being. This fall, the TDSB began implementing a system-wide green bin program for all school sites. Also, we made steady progress on the infrastructure of our buildings. In 2014, the TDSB installed 1,994,000 square-feet of new roofs which represents 53% of the goal sought in the *Years of Action* plan. Work continues on the remaining roofs.

For more information, please visit:

www.tdsb.on.ca/YOA_Accomplishments

Staff Inspiration and Support Update

TDSB staff are the backbone of our system and key to student success. That's why we have committed to ensuring the proper supports are in place for personal and professional growth. We are developing a Talent Growth strategy where staff from any area of the Board can plan their professional growth.

For more information, please visit:

www.tdsb.on.ca/YOA_Accomplishments

Student Achievement and Well-Being Update

The *Years of Action* plan was designed for every student at every school, every day. That's why student achievement and well-being is a priority and is central to all that the TDSB does. This year we have achieved many of the goals sought in the plan that directly improve our learning environments. This includes the complete implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten, professional development on advancing Aboriginal Education to 100% of schools and central leadership teams, and the development of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) strategy that will be rolled out to all students at every school.

For more information please visit:

www.tdsb.on.ca/YOA_Accomplishments

Quick Facts and Updates

Focus on Youth

- This year marked the inaugural March Break Camps initiative that provided 27 recreational programs serving hundreds of children and youth in low-income communities across Toronto.
- The March Break Camp provided 40 hours of paid employment for 181 TDSB students from those communities.
- The summer Focus On Youth programs supported 87 local community agency partners.
- Approximately 12,000 children and youth in priority neighbourhoods enjoyed access to this programming while 664 TDSB students had paid employment.

Suspensions

- Over the past four years, suspension rates have continued to decline in both the elementary and secondary panels.

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres

- At TDSB Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, parents/guardians and their children can participate in a variety of activities to develop numeracy, literacy and social skills. In 2014, close to 14,000 children (infant to age six) participated in the TDSB's 78 Parent and Family Literacy Centre's programming.

Aboriginal Education

- The Aboriginal Education team continues to work on building three key areas of Aboriginal Education at the TDSB. This includes:
 - ◆ Student self-identification;
 - ◆ Professional learning; and,
 - ◆ Alignment and integration of resources.

eLearning

- 2014 e-Summer total enrolment: 3087
- 2014 e-Credit total enrolment: 605
- 2014 e-Learning Day School total enrolment: 641
- 2014 e-Credit total enrolment: 471 (does not include trimester 3)
- Blended Learning 2014
 - ◆ Semester 1 – 13400 total repeated login
 - ◆ Semester 2 – 27800 total repeated logins

Financial Stability and Accountability

In March 2014, the TDSB passed a balanced operating budget without cuts to schools or programs.

For more information please visit:

www.tdsb.on.ca/YOA_Accomplishments

www.tdsb.on.ca/EnvironmentalScan

2014-15 Expenses by Category

