



Central Student Interest Programs: Update

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 24 January, 2024

Report No.: 01-24-4650

Strategic Directions

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be received.

Context

On June 14, 2023 the following motion was approved by the Board of Trustees:

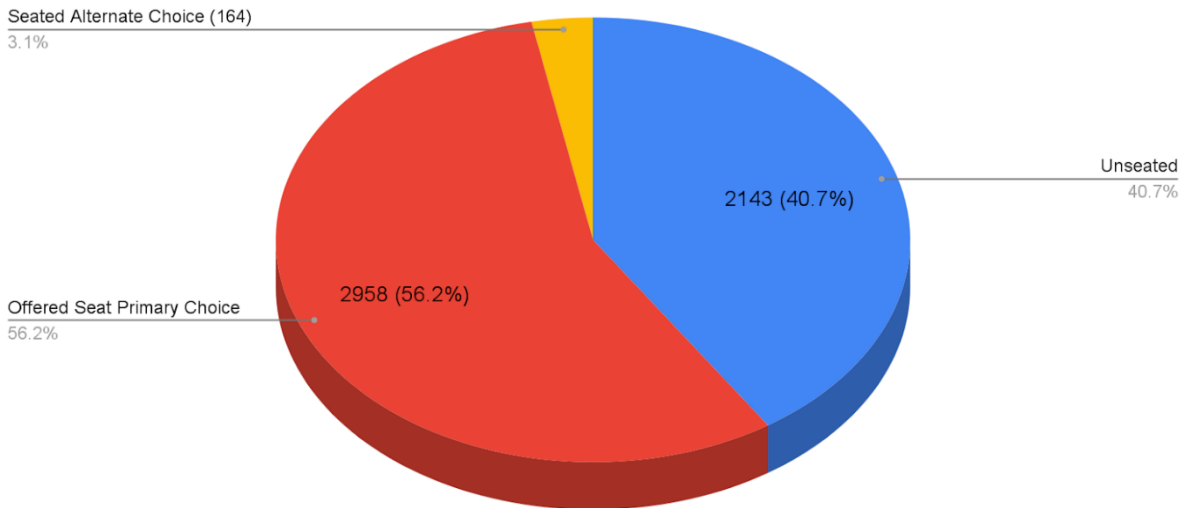
Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the following be referred to staff as part of the report back to the Board in the fall 2023:
 - i) the numbers of students who, as of June 1, 2023, applied for, were accepted to, and were placed in each specialized program whose admissions are governed by policy P100;
 - ii) the number of seats left unfilled in said programs, or that were then filled from local waitlists as opposed to the previous central waitlist;
 - iii) a list of schools in underserved geographic areas of the city where additional specialized programs could be added based on the high demand evidenced in the lottery process;
- (b) That the Director assess the current implementation of section 6.3.5, while upholding the objectives and guiding principles of policy P100;
- (c) That the Director present a report on the feasibility of extending waitlists.

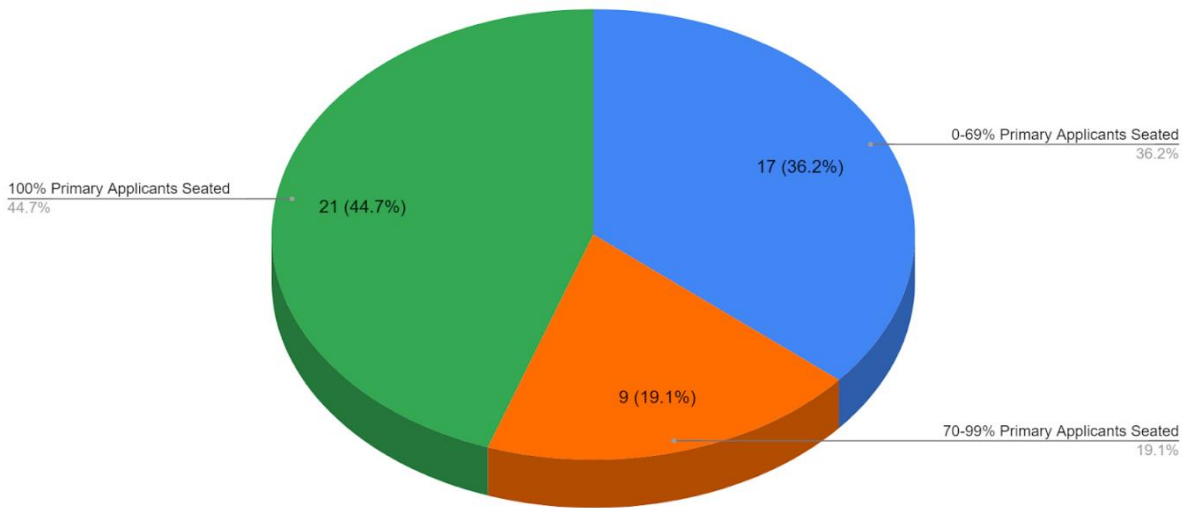
The purpose of this report (Appendix A) is to provide the requested data and information to the Trustees. Highlights from the report include:

- Overall, there were 210 vacant seats as of June 2023 in the various Central Student Interest Programs. 87 applicants were placed in programs from Local Waitlists, where available, in June and September 2023. Nearly 2,700 seats were filled through the central process.
- In September there were 187 vacant seats that remained unfilled in the programs where active waitlists expired in February/March 2023.
- In the November 2023 CSIP application cycle, an “Expression of Interest” was included as a requirement to better align with the language in the Student Interest Program Policy (P100).
- In October 2023, a briefing regarding waitlists was presented to Trustees. The key components of that presentation are included in the attached report.
- A summary of the applicant data from the most recent application process showing that nearly 60% of applicants for Grade 9 entry have been seated (effective January 10, 2024) in either their Primary or Alternate program choice (Graphic 1 below)

Graphic 1: Grade 9 CSIP Applicants (September 2024)



Graphic 2: Percentage Fill Rates of Elementary and Secondary CSIPs (September 2024)



- A summary of the percentage of applicants accommodated in the 47 Central Student Interest Programs showing that:
 - 30 of the 47 Central Student Interest Programs (Elementary and Secondary) *illustrated in green and orange* accommodated at least 70% of the applicants who indicated the program was their primary choice
 - 21 programs *illustrated in green* seated 100% of the applicants who indicated the program was their primary choice (Graphic 2 above)
- The waitlist expiration timelines has been aligned to meet the needs of the staffing process, closing prior to the March Break for all program types.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Subject to the Program and School Services Committee’s receipt of the report, the report will be brought to the Board of Trustees on January 31, 2024.

Resource Implications

N/A

Communications Considerations

N/A

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

- Student Interest Programs (P100).

Appendices

- Appendix A Central Student Interest Programs: Report
- Appendix B All Applicants and those Seated June 2023
- Appendix C Waitlist Data September 2023
- Appendix D MAP - All CSIP
- Appendix E MAP - All Arts CSIP
- Appendix F MAP - MST CSIP and Local MST
- Appendix G MAP - International Baccalaureate
- Appendix H MAP - Standalone CSIP
- Appendix I November 2023 Seated Applicant Data

From

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Central Student Interest Programs: Report

This report was assembled to address the Board motion of June 14, 2024. This report aims to be responsive to the system's needs and that the data contained within are instrumental for the continued successful implementation of Central Student Interest Programs.

Section 1: Applicants and Seated Applicants (June 2023)

Section 2: Unfilled Seats and the Use of Local Waitlists

Section 3: New Central Student Interest Programs

Section 4: P100 section 6.3.5 - "Active Interest or Passion"

Section 5: Waitlists

Section 1: Applicants and Seated Applicants (June 2023)

Appendix B contains data regarding the applicant pools and seated students in the entry grade for Central Student Interest Programs admissions in September 2023.

Applications for Grade 9 in November 2022 (Appendix B, column D) - this data contains the number of applicants who listed the program as either their first or second choice of program.

Seated June 2023 (Appendix B, column E) - shows the number of students that had been offered and accepted seats in each program. In some cases, all central applicants were satisfied, and unfilled seats remained available in June (pale yellow highlight) In some cases, these seats may have been filled in September by local students at the schools where the programs were located.

Elite Athlete Programs - the programs were allocated the number of seats needed to meet the interests and demands of applicants due to the unique eligibility requirements. There were no waitlists, and the number of students in seats changed as student-athletes opted to cease to participate in their specific area of competitive sports.

The Elite Athlete Programs are distinct and different from the Exceptional Athlete Program at Birchmount Park CI. The Exceptional Athlete Program continues to be a Central Student Interest Program as the program is based on students' passions for athletics, leadership and healthy living.

Section 2: Unfilled Seats and the Use of Local Waitlists

Appendix C contains data regarding unfilled CSIP seats, seated students from Local Waitlists and students seated from the local Regular program along with the percentage of program seats that were filled in September 2024.

Seated as of September 2023 from Local Waitlist (Appendix C, column F) - schools with unfilled seats and local waitlists were able to offer seats to applicants from the central application process if they were already in attendance at the school, living in the local designated attendance area. Students were not moved from one school to another to fill these seats.

Seated as of September 2023 from the local population (Appendix C, column G) - in some cases, where there was no local waitlist, or it had been exhausted, schools were able to offer seats to local students in the regular program. This also recognizes that there may be students who are newcomers, new to Toronto or the TDSB, or were not familiar with the Central Student Interest Programs. As such, we are continuing a past practice from many schools, who offered seats to local students.

Seated as of Oct 2023 in Gr 9 (Appendix C, column H) - this is the total number of students participating in the Central Student Interest Program at the entry grade at the end of October 2023.

Percentage of seats filled for 2023-2024 (Appendix C, column I) - shows the percentage of seats in programs that were filled in October 2023. Of the 29 secondary programs (excluding Elite Athletes), 20 had 90% or more of their program seats filled. Five programs did not meet the 90% threshold, though all original applicants were accommodated and provided with an opportunity to enter into the program, or were seated in a different program.

Section 3: New Central Student Interest Programs

In the Spring of 2023, 10 new Central Student Interest Programs were initiated by the TDSB to better serve the needs and interests of students from across the city. Geography and proximity to Neighbourhood Improvement Areas identified by the City of Toronto were used to help identify program locations, in addition to data about local demand, school utilization rates, proximity to existing programs and local feasibility and viability (e.g. staffing, existing local programs etc.) Four programs were established in the east, where only SATEC @ W A Porter existed (* in Table 1: New Central Student Interest Programs for September 2024)

Table 1: New Central Student Interest Programs for September 2024

Arts Focus Programs	Math, Science and Technology
Westview Centennial Secondary School	Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute*
Woburn Collegiate Institute	Downsview Secondary School
	Jarvis Collegiate Institute
	Kipling Collegiate Institute
	Lakeshore Collegiate Institute
	Lester B. Pearson Collegiate Institute*
	Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute*
	West Hill Collegiate Institute*

Appendices D through H are maps showing the current locations of Central Student Interest Programs across the TDSB. These include the 2 new Secondary Arts Programs and 8 new Math, Science and Technology programs. Appendix F additionally includes 12 new local Math, Science and Technology programs designed to support and serve their local communities.

November 2023 Applicant Data

From Appendix I - November 2023 Applicant Data, 30 of the programs were able to accommodate 70% or more of the primary applicants by the third round of offers made on January 10, 2023.

- 10 of the 20 Math, Science and Technology programs were able to accommodate all primary applicants and had seats available for alternate choice applicants;
- Unfilled seats exist in four of the programs;
- There are a few programs that have received very high numbers of applications.

Of the 7 programs that were not able to accommodate at least 70% of applicants, 5 are existing programs in schools that are Closed or have Limited (Siblings) status for Out-of-Area Admissions. This makes the Central Student Interest Program the only entry point to the school for those living outside of the catchment area.

- Danforth CTI - Limited (Siblings)
- Marc Garneau CI - Closed
- SATEC - Closed
- West Humber CI - Closed
- William Lyon Mackenzie CI - Closed

Program Coherence Studies

In the Spring of 2023, the Program Coherence Study for the Elite Athlete Programs was conducted, leading to the separation of the programs from the Central Student Interest Program portfolio and the renaming of the programs to the High Performing Athlete Programs. The programs provide unique and flexible scheduling to support the training schedules of student-athletes, but do not have specific required courses focused on an area of study.

The new, separate application process for these programs is currently underway and we are beginning the process of investigating a third site for the programs in the east end of the City.

We are committed to completing Program Coherence Studies to better understand the nature of each type of Central Student Interest Program and to establish that the programs are aligned with the principles of the policy and the next study will be undertaken in the Spring of 2024.

Section 4: P100 section 6.3.5 - "Active Interest or Passion"

P100 section 6.3.5

Each type of TDSB Centralized programs/schools will have standard interest-based admissions processes established by the Board, which include a demonstration of active interest or passion, where applicable. Students demonstrating interest or passion, will be eligible for the random selection process when demand exceeds available space.

In the November 2023 Central Student Interest Program admissions process, the submission of an applicant-generated Expression of Interest was introduced as an application requirement. Applicants could choose one of many ways to demonstrate their interest in attending a Central Student Interest Program. Each Expression of Interest was reviewed for completion and to ensure that the expectations outlined below were met.

Expectations for the Expression included:

- Applicant-generated submissions
- Length limitations
- Connection to the Central Student Interest Program
- Expression of Interest communicated

Examples of the Expressions of Interest included (but were not limited to):

- Essays and application "letters"
- Samples of applicant-generated artwork accompanied by artist statements
- Slideshow presentations highlighting interest and related experience
- Applicant-generated videos of performances, statements, claymation, digitally generated videos

Examples of Expressions of Interest that were declined, and where new submissions were requested:

- Letters written by parents/caregivers on behalf of their child
- Google drives with folders containing large numbers of files

- Report Card submissions, certificates of accomplishment, photos of tests with high grades
- Selfies and other unrelated photographs provided without context
- Writing samples that were not connected to a Central Student Interest Program area of focus and did not include any expression of interest for a program

Section 5: Waitlists

On October 2, 2023, a presentation was delivered to Trustees regarding the timelines established for waitlist expiry. There are significant implications when students are moved from one school to another that relate to staffing and projected enrollments, class size, Ministry compliance requirements and school operations.

Some key factors include:

Class Size

Enrolment must comply with legislative requirements on class size averages and limits; as well as board targets which optimize funding under the Grants for Student Needs. Non-compliance will result in penalties between 1% and 5% of the Grants for Student Needs; which for 2023-24, may amount to \$150 million.

Staffing & Reporting

Class sizes must be reported per provincially-mandated deadlines (October 31st and March 31st of each year for secondary class sizes). Stable enrollment informs staffing requirements, the timelines for which are established by Collective Agreements specific to the TDSB. Non-compliance is subject to the immediate withholding of payment, up to 50% of the monthly transfer from the Ministry and increases the likelihood of disruption to student learning and staffing.

Approvals

The staffing complement requires the timely approval of the Board of Trustees, as part of the budget document process. Non-compliance increases the likelihood of disruption to student learning and staffing.

At both the Elementary and Secondary levels, the staffing processes for the upcoming year begin at the March Break. The Staffing allocation for the upcoming year goes to the Board for approval in March annually.

To better align our waitlist practices with the staffing and reporting requirements outlined above, timelines have been shifted for the current year, ensuring that the plans for student movement between schools for the next school year are complete before the March Break.

Table 2: Expiration Dates for Waitlists

Application Process	September 2023 Waitlist Expiration Date	September 2024 Waitlist Expiration Date
Secondary Central Student Interest Programs	February 22, 2023	February 21, 2024
Secondary Out-of-Area Admissions	February 22, 2023	February 21, 2024
Elementary Central Student Interest Programs	March 22, 2023	February 21, 2024
Elementary Out-of-Area Admissions	March 22, 2023	March 1, 2024
Elementary Alternative Schools	June 11, 2023 **	March 1, 2024

** finalized placements occurred later than anticipated

Prior to P100, schools with former specialized programs were not to make offers of admission to applicants after the waitlist expiry date, as outlined in the former Optional Attendance procedures (PR545).

Seats that become unfilled in a Central Student Interest Program can be filled by applicants on the local waitlist, where one exists. Other available seats can be filled by students in the regular program. This is consistent with the past practices of schools before P100.

Schools without local waitlists or a regular program/catchment area are not able to bring students into their schools after the expiry of waitlists. This is consistent with the expectations outlined in the procedures overseeing admissions to former specialized schools.

Several active steps have been taken this year to help address and reduce attrition in Central Student Interest Programs and decrease the reliance on local waitlists.

- Primary applicants, those who are most interested in a particular program are seated before alternate choice applicants;
- Email correspondence with all applicants, explaining the nature of CSIP programming and the requirement of changing schools to participate;
- Addition of the Expression of Interest generated by the student-applicant;
- A small buffer of additional seats have been offered in most programs, especially those without local boundaries and without local waitlists to reduce the number of unfilled seats in September;
- Lists of seated students have been shared with the Special Education department and will be included in the IPRC review process. Placement are being made earlier and

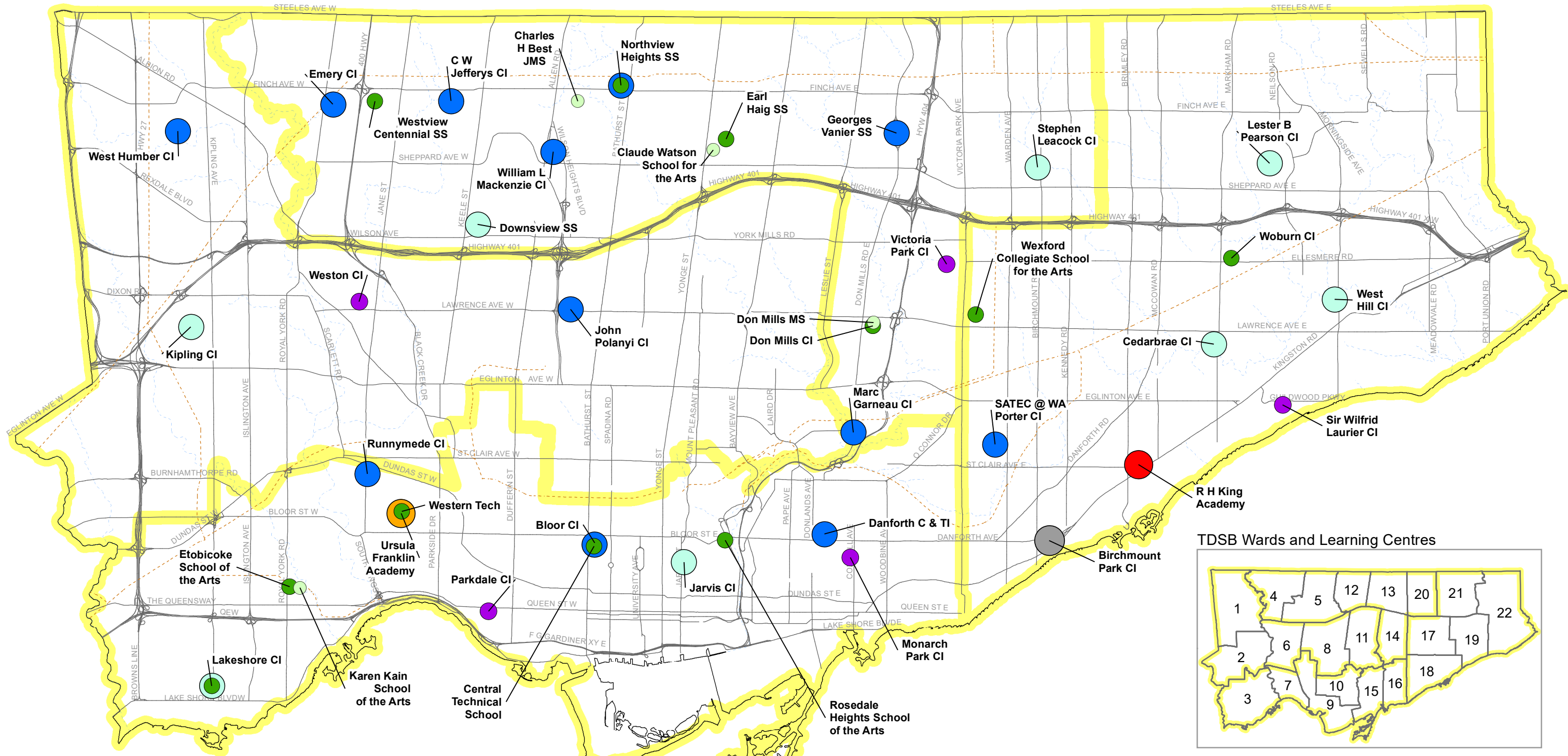
families accepting offers of placement for Intensive Support Programs will be required to communicate with the Central Student Interest Program Admissions Team;

- Schools offering Central Student Interest Programs are communicating directly with incoming students and their parents/caregivers in the month of January, developing a relationship for the upcoming year and opening the communication channels for applicants who may change their minds;
- Registration and follow up on incoming students in the Elementary programs have been streamlined and will be conducted earlier in the process as the entry grades are often not natural transition years.

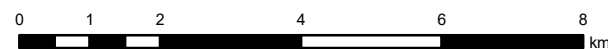
Applicants for CSIP and Those Seated in June 2023					
Secondary Program	School	Allocated Gr 9 Seats for Sept 2023	Applications for Grade 9 in November 2022	Seated June 2023	Empty Seats June 2023
Arts Program	Central Technical School	60	136	55	5
Arts Program	Earl Haig	130	566	126	4
Arts Program	Wexford	180	377	177	3
Arts School	ESA	243	512	215	28
Arts School	Rosedale	243	718	218	25
CyberARTS	Don Mills CI	60	90	58	2
CyberARTS	Lakeshore CI	28	20	15	13
CyberARTS	Northview Heights SS	60	88	60	0
CyberARTS	Western Technical and Commercial	60	161	59	1
Elite Athletes	Northview Heights SS	30	38	22	NA
Elite Athletes	Silverthorn CI	69	78	57	NA
Exceptional Athletes	Birchmount Park CI	60	230	45	15
Integrated Technology	Ursula Franklin Academy	108	927	103	5
International Baccalaureate	Monarch Park CI	81	255	78	3
International Baccalaureate	Parkdale CI	81	204	67	14
International Baccalaureate	Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI	108	242	102	6
International Baccalaureate	Victoria Park CI	108	268	106	2
International Baccalaureate	Weston CI	54	142	42	12
Leadership	R. H. King	120	558	104	16
Math, Science and Tech	Bloor CI	54	550	47	7
Math, Science and Tech	C. W. Jefferys CI	54	77	50	4
Math, Science and Tech	Danforth CTI	84	660	76	8
Math, Science and Tech	Emery CI	27	28	15	12
Math, Science and Tech	Georges Vanier SS	81	189	79	2
Math, Science and Tech	John Polanyi CI	54	65	44	10
Math, Science and Tech	Marc Garneau CI	54	338	53	1
Math, Science and Tech	Northview Heights SS	84	388	82	2
Math, Science and Tech	Runnymede CI	54	210	52	2
Math, Science and Tech	SATEC @ WA Porter	81	729	81	0
Math, Science and Tech	West Humber CI	81	229	82	-1
Math, Science and Tech	William Lyon Mackenzie CI	81	587	81	0
A	B	C	D	E	F
Elementary School/Program	Entry Grade	Allocated Entry Grade Seats for Sept 2023	Applications for Entry Grade	Seated June 2023	Empty Seats June 2023
Claude Watson / Arts	Grade 4	60	290	55	5
Karen Kain / Arts	Grade 6	60	142	59	1
C H Best MS / CyberARTS	Grade 7	27	57	26	1
Don Mills MS / CyberARTS	Grade 6	27	90	25	2
			all applicants were seated in program		

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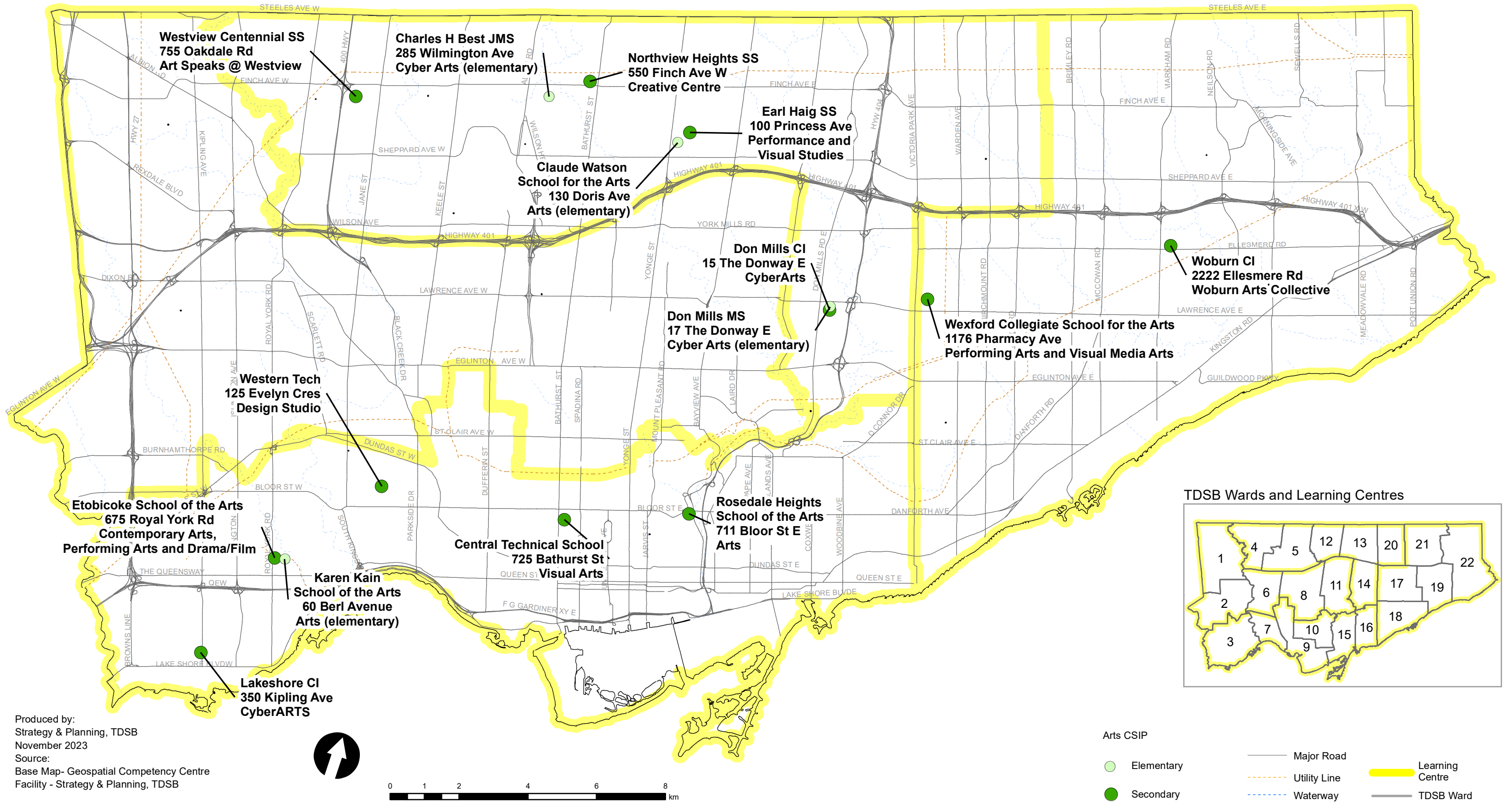
TDSB Central Student Interest Programs



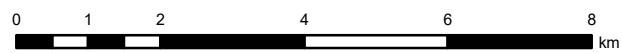
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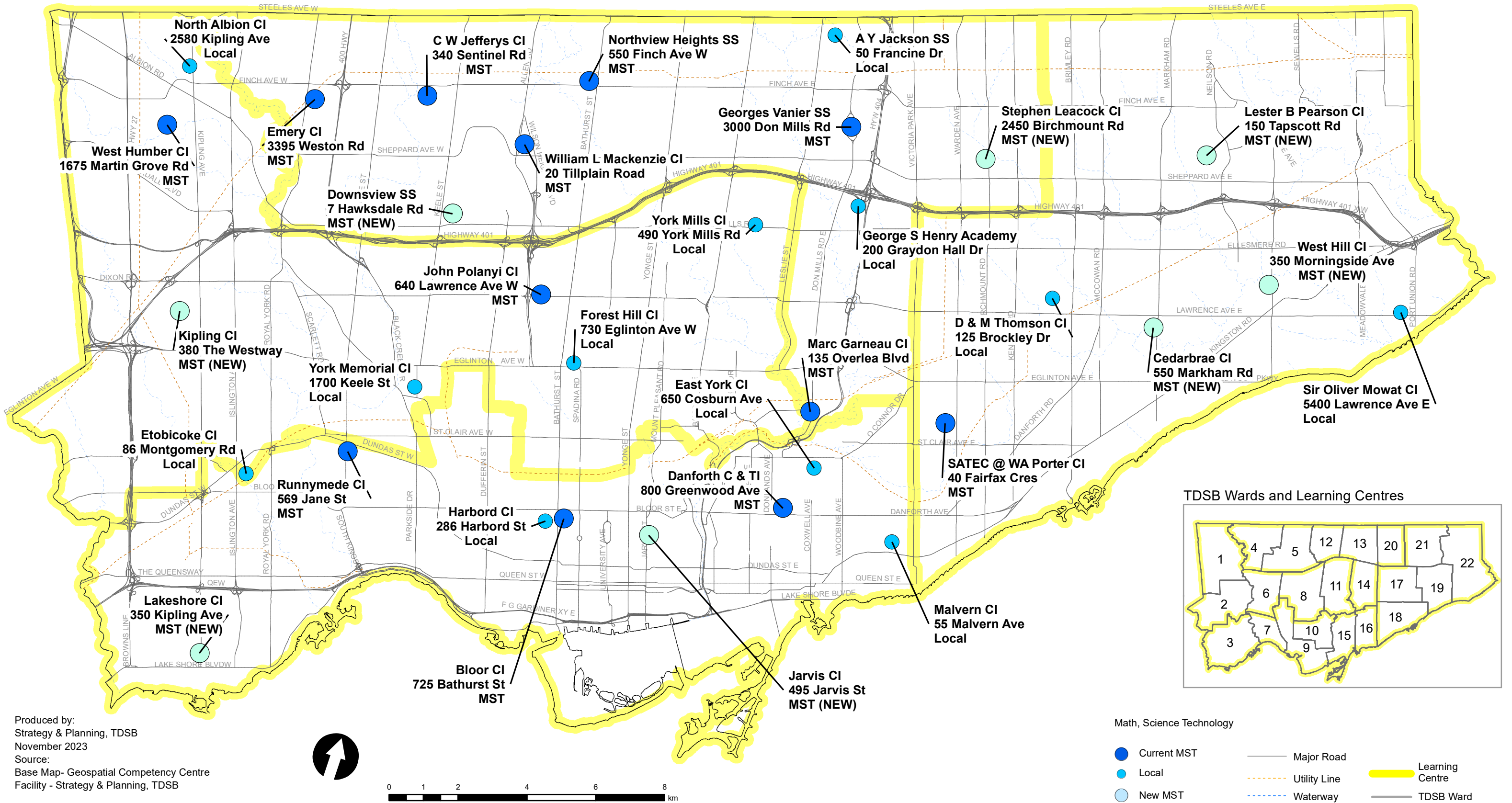


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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Arts CSIP | Math, Science Technology | Stand Alone CSIP | Major Road | Learning Centre |
| ● Elementary | ● Current MST | ● Exceptional Athlete | --- Utility Line | --- TDSB Ward |
| ● Secondary | ● New MST | ● Integrated Technology | --- Waterway | |
| ● International Baccalaureate | | ● Leadership | | |



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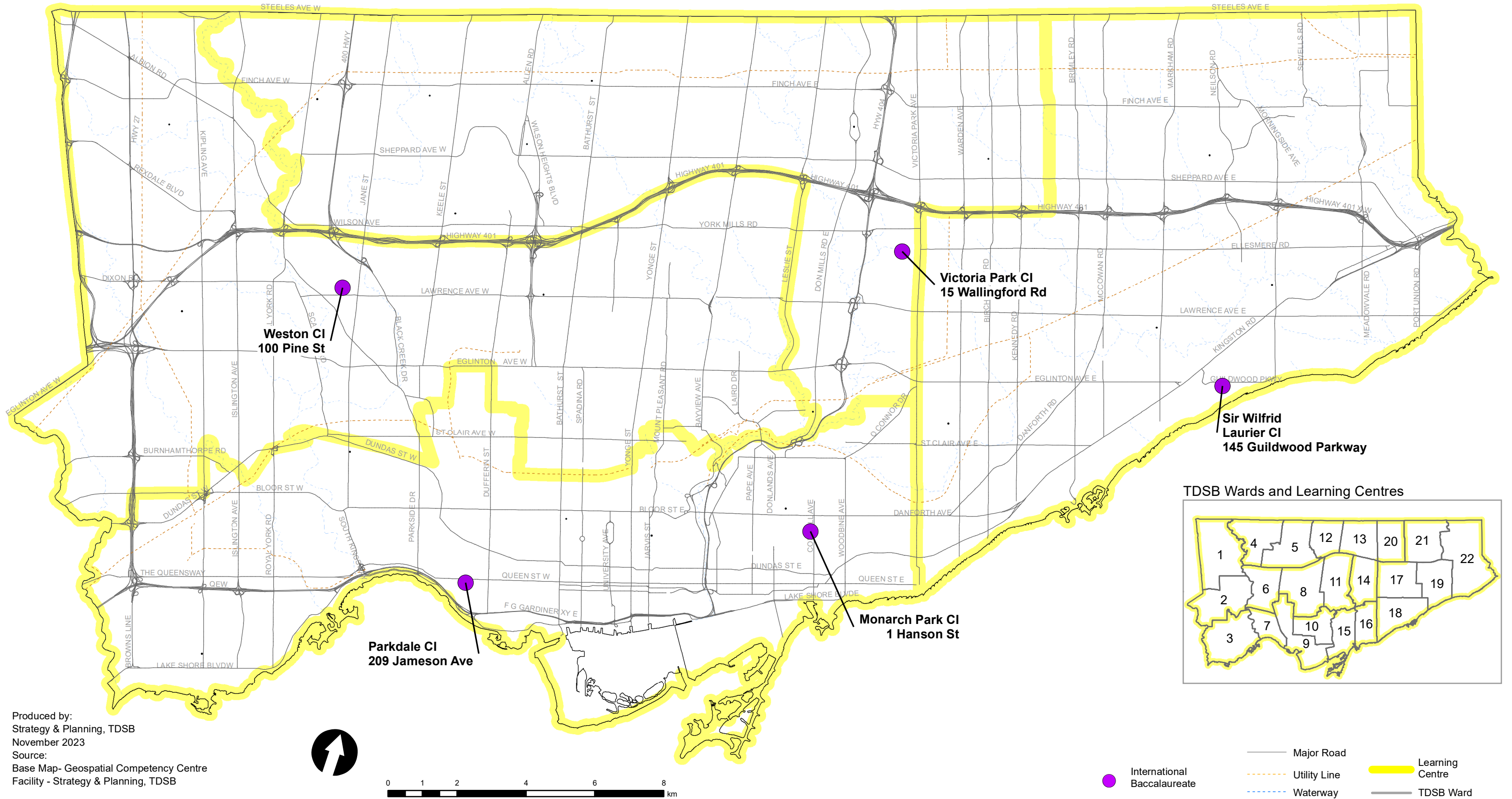




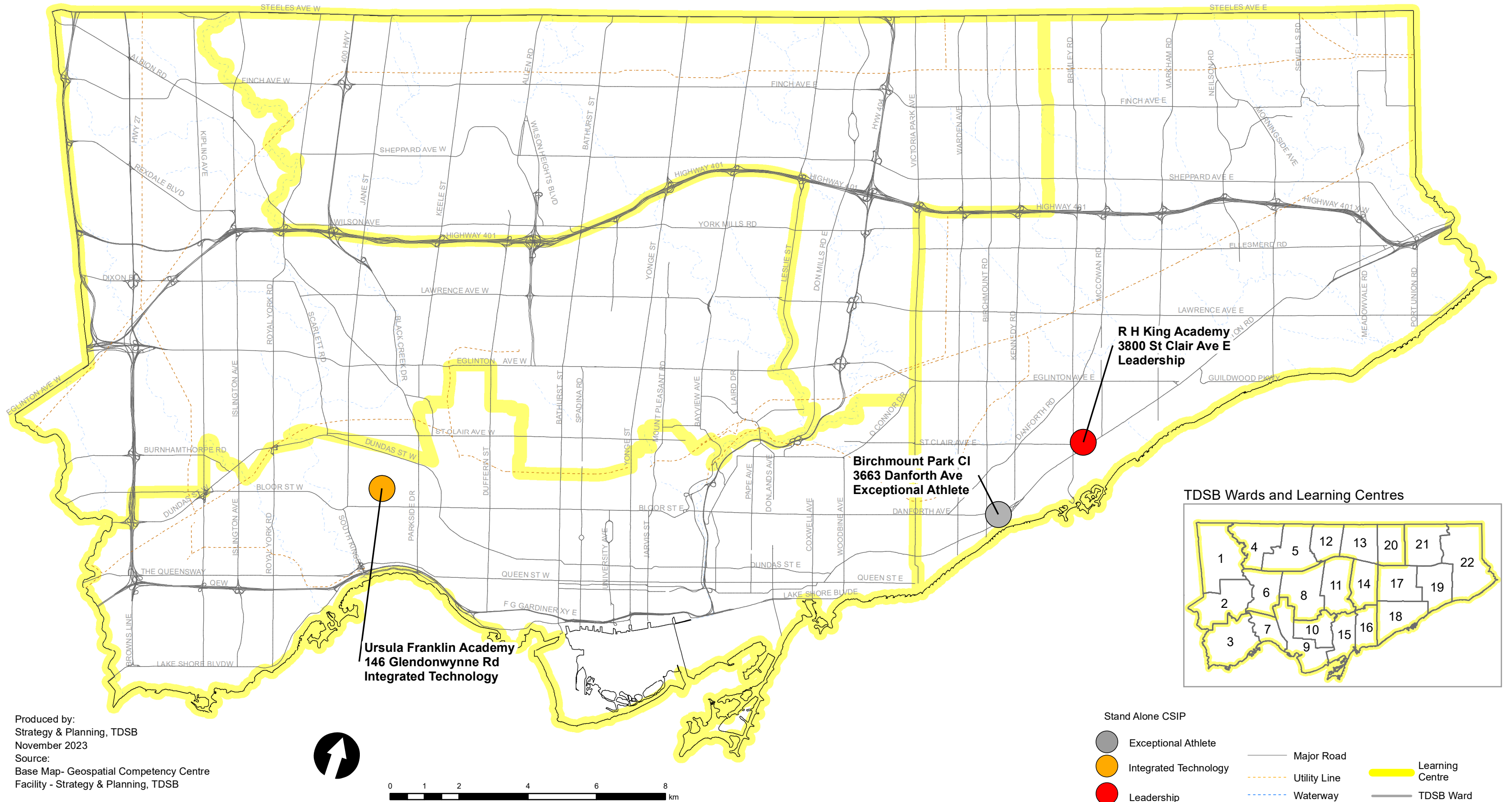
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International Baccalaureate



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APPENDIX I

Percentage of Entry Grade Primary Applicants Seated in Primary Choice Program				
Secondary Program	School	Sept. 2024 Round 1 Offers December 7, 2023	Sept. 2024 Round 2 Offers December 14, 2023	Sept. 2024 Round 3 Offers January 10, 2024
Arts Program	Central Technical School	100%	100%	100%
Arts Program	Don Mills CI	84%	95%	100%
Arts Program	Earl Haig SS (Performance Studies)	47%	51%	54%
Arts Program	Earl Haig SS (Visual Studies)	33%	37%	39%
Arts School	ESA (Contemporary Arts)	58%	63%	69%
Arts School	ESA (Drama/Fillm)	98%	100%	100%
Arts School	ESA (Performing Arts)	71%	81%	89%
Arts Program	Lakeshore CI	100%	100%	100%
Arts Program	Northview Heights SS	100%	100%	100%
Arts School	Rosedale Heights	56%	62%	65%
Arts Program	Western Technical and Commercial School	85%	87%	92%
Arts Program	Westview Centennial	100%	100%	100%
Arts Program	Wexford (Performing Arts)	100%	100%	100%
Arts Program	Wexford (Visual Media Arts)	96%	100%	100%
Arts Program	Woburn CI	100%	100%	100%
International Baccalaureate	Monarch Park CI	45%	50%	52%
International Baccalaureate	Parkdale CI	65%	72%	76%
International Baccalaureate	Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI	74%	82%	82%
International Baccalaureate	Victoria Park CI	85%	92%	96%
International Baccalaureate	Weston CI	98%	100%	100%
Integrated Technology	Ursula Franklin Academy	24%	26%	26%
Leadership	R. H. King	49%	51%	53%
Exceptional Athletes	Birchmount CI	38%	42%	46%
Math, Science and Tech	Bloor CI	20%	23%	23%
Math, Science and Tech	C. W. Jefferys CI	100%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	Cedarbrae CI	96%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	Danforth CTI	34%	37%	38%
Math, Science and Tech	Downsview SS	100%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	Emery CI	100%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	Georges Vanier SS	95%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	Jarvis CI	100%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	John Polanyi CI	100%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	Kipling CI	93%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	Lakeshore CI	80%	86%	89%
Math, Science and Tech	Lester B Pearson CI	67%	67%	71%
Math, Science and Tech	Marc Garneau CI	51%	57%	58%
Math, Science and Tech	Northview Heights SS	62%	66%	66%
Math, Science and Tech	Runnymede CI	93%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	SATEC @ WA Porter	20%	21%	21%
Math, Science and Tech	Stephen Leacock CI	100%	100%	100%
Math, Science and Tech	West Hill CI	84%	97%	97%
Math, Science and Tech	West Humber CI	34%	37%	39%
Math, Science and Tech	William Lyon Mackenzie CI	18%	20%	20%
Elementary Program	School	Sept. 2024 Round 1 Offers December 7, 2023	Sept. 2024 Round 2 Offers December 14, 2023	Sept. 2024 Round 3 Offers January 10, 2024
Grade 4 Arts	Claude Watson	30%	31%	31%
Grade 6 Arts	Karen Kain	59%	66%	72%
Grade 6 Arts	Don Mills MS	60%	67%	69%
Grade 7 Arts	Charles H Best MS	93%	100%	100%
70% or more of primary applicants have been seated				

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