



Three-Year Enrolment Projections 2023-24 to 2025-26

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 23 January, 2023

Report No.: 01-23-4462

Strategic Directions

- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

Recommendation

It is recommended that the report on Enrolment Projections for 2023-24 to 2025-26 be received.

Context

Enrolment projections are updated annually to support budget planning, staff allocation, and reporting to the Ministry of Education. The tables below outline the actual Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) of Pupils of the Board for 2021-22, the projected ADE for 2022-23 through to 2025-26, and the net change in enrolment year over year.

ADE is a measure of enrolment that the Ministry of Education uses to allocate funding to school boards. It is based on full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments of Pupils of the Board counted on the last days of October and March of a school year (full-time equivalent counts students by the amount of time they are registered for instruction). The average of these two counts is the ADE. Pupils of the Board are defined as all students who are eligible for funding from the Ministry of Education. Fee-paying students are not included in the count of Pupils of the Board.

Projected Average Daily Enrolment (Expressed as Pupils of the Board)

	Actual 2021-2022	Projected 2022-2023	Projected 2023-2024	Projected 2024-2025	Projected 2025-2026
JK/SK	30,647	31,761	31,187	30,011	30,330
Grades 1 to 3	49,305	49,530	49,410	48,567	48,977
Grades 4 to 8	82,175	82,271	82,276	82,105	82,297

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	Actual 2021-2022	Projected 2022-2023	Projected 2023-2024	Projected 2024-2025	Projected 2025-2026
Total Elementary	162,127	163,562	162,875	161,683	161,604
Secondary	68,720	70,164	70,652	71,023	70,501
Total Day School	230,847	233,726	233,527	232,706	232,105

Net Change Year Over Year Enrolment Analysis

	22-23 vs 21-22	23-24 vs 22-23	24-25 vs 23-24	25-26 vs 24-25
JK/SK	1,114	-574	-1,176	319
Grades 1 to 3	225	-120	-843	410
Grades 4 to 8	96	5	-171	192
Total Elementary	1,435	-687	-1,192	-79
Secondary	1,444	488	371	-522
Total Day School	2,879	-199	-821	-601

Elementary Enrolment Projections

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the elementary-aged population in the City of Toronto. After the pandemic began in March 2020, immigration declined, families began to move out of the city, and more non-compulsory school-aged Kindergarten students did not attend public schools as parents pursued other options. The combination of these factors resulted in significant enrolment declines in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

This year, elementary enrolment increased as border restrictions lifted, and newcomer enrolment returned to levels higher than experienced prior to the pandemic as the immigration backlog was addressed. There was also an increase in refugee students this year, particularly from Afghanistan and Ukraine. In addition, more Kindergarten students returned to school.

Despite these positive indicators, elementary enrolment is projected to experience a slight decline of 687 students next school year, followed by another decline in 2024-25 of 1,192 students before stabilizing in 2025-26 with a very small decline of 79 students. In creating these projections, the following assumptions were made:

- Retention rates throughout the grades will be at pre-pandemic levels (a retention rate is the relationship between the number of students in a grade or age group and the number of students that moves on to the next grade or age group in the following year);
- Newcomer enrolment will be at a similar level as observed this year;

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- Junior Kindergarten enrolment will be lower than this year because the number of three-year-old children in the city is decreasing; and
- Large Grade 8 cohorts will be graduating from the elementary panel and be replaced by smaller incoming Junior Kindergarten cohorts.

Secondary Enrolment Projections

Compared with the elementary panel, the COVID-19 pandemic had a lesser impact on secondary school enrolment. A reason for this is for the past couple of years larger graduating Grade 8 cohorts from the elementary panel have been entering the secondary panel. Also, fewer families with secondary-aged children left the city compared to families with pre-school and elementary-aged children, resulting in better retention through all grades compared to the elementary panel. These factors resulted in slight declines in secondary enrolment in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

This year, similar to the elementary panel, secondary enrolment increased as more immigrants were welcomed to Canada and newcomer enrolment increased to above pre-pandemic levels.

Secondary enrolment is projected to increase by 488 students next year, followed by an increase of 371 students in 2024-25 and a decrease of 522 students in 2025-26. In creating these projections, the following assumptions were made:

- Retention rates throughout the grades will be at pre-pandemic levels;
- Newcomer enrolment will be at a similar level as observed this year;
- Large Grade 8 cohorts will be graduating from the elementary panel and entering Grade 9; and
- Fewer older students will be returning for a fifth year as observed over the last ten years.

System Enrolment Projections

As a system, TDSB enrolment is projected to decrease by 199 students next year, followed by further declines of 821 students in 2024-25 and 601 students in 2025-26.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Not applicable.

Resource Implications

The Business Services Department uses the enrolment projections in this report to prepare a forecast of the financial position of the Board.

Communications Considerations

Not applicable.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Not applicable.

Appendices

Not applicable.

From

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