

Trustee Sara Ehrhardt



Welcome Back to School!

Dear Toronto-Danforth Resident,

I am Sara Ehrhardt, your elected public school board trustee. I represent our community at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) in support of public education.

Everyone is welcome at the TDSB, including Adult learners and English as a Second Language (ESL) learners. As the 2024-25 school year gets underway, I would like to highlight the following:

- The TDSB has mental health resources tailored to students, parents, and caregivers available online at tdsb.on.ca/MHWP
- Despite budget deficits I continue to advocate for school-based supports for students. If your child is struggling, please reach out to the contacts on the back of this flyer.
- The TDSB offers a wide range of Adult General Interest and Seniors Daytime classes through the Learn4Life program. These classes provide an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, stay active, and connect with others in our community. Visit learn4life.ca for more.
- I encourage best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. This includes staying home from school when sick, wearing a well-fitted mask in crowded settings, and keeping up to date on vaccinations. COVID-19 vaccines are available for those 6 months and older, more information is available at www.toronto.ca/covid-19. The TDSB continues to provide medical masks to students who want to wear one.
- For school security issues, please contact your school directly. Outside of school hours, contact the TDSB security operation centre at 416-395-4620

School Board trustees are not full-time positions in Ontario. Beyond serving as your Trustee, I work full-time and am a parent of a school-age child. I seek to respond to messages received within one week. I invite you to subscribe to my email newsletter for community updates and information on board decisions through www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward15. You can also follow my social media through @TrusteeSara

Take care,

Sara Ehrhardt
TDSB Trustee Toronto-Danforth



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Funding our Schools

Although Trustees approve school board budgets, funding levels are set by the province. Provincial education funding has not even kept pace with inflation, so each year there is less spending power than the year before. The Ontario Public School Boards Association has shared that for 2024-25 there is \$2,300 less per student in education funding than there was in 2018-19 (adjusted for inflation). Alarmingly almost every school board in the province now has a deficit due to this provincial underfunding.

It is unrealistic to continue to ask schools to do more with less. Our children and our community deserve better. As your trustee, I have opposed cuts at the school board. I have advocated for increases in school staffing, and I have fought to save swim programs, international languages, and community programs like Learn4Life. I encourage you to sign up for my updates and visit fundourschools.ca to join us in this advocacy.

Cell Phones, Social Media, AI: Taking Action

This year I was proud to work with Chair Rachel Chernos Lin to advance a motion to update TDSB policy on use of mobile devices and social media. I was pleased the provincial government then followed our lead and adopted a province-wide approach. Starting this fall, these new policies restricting cellphone use in schools will be in effect. You can find out more at tdsb.on.ca.

TDSB has also joined a lawsuit against social media giants Meta, Snapchat, and TikTok to hold these companies accountable for the harms they are creating. It is important to note that school boards are not using education funds to pay for this lawsuit. You can find out more information at schoolboardsforchange.ca.

I have also championed the development of a provincial strategy to tackle the emerging use of AI in schools, I hope to see more progress on this next year.

Fixing our Schools

Our schools are aging and desperately need capital funding to meet the needs of the 21st century: elevators, air conditioners, modern ventilation. This year trustees approved a Capital Modernization Strategy. Several Toronto-Danforth schools have repair projects this summer, including to HVAC systems, because of this commitment. But so much more is needed.

Sadly, federal, and provincial governments ended dedicated funding to improve ventilation, and there is no targeted funding for other needed upgrades. As your trustee, I have called for board-wide advocacy to both federal and provincial governments to update standards to meet evolving safety, public health, accessibility, and climate realities, and to provide ongoing capital funding to make and maintain these building updates.

Locally, I have also worked to improve information sharing about school infrastructure projects with school councils. This included hosting an event on how to advance play yard updates within the TDSB.

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Trustee Drop-ins

I am always happy to connect with our community through events. This year I hosted a fall meet and greet, a session on school playgrounds, and a drop-in on the TDSB budget. Thank you to everyone who joined these important events!

I will again hold drop-in hours over the 2024-25 school year. The dates will be available starting in September at tdsb.on.ca/Ward15 and through my listserv.

Working Together

I so appreciate the work of our area representatives on issues of importance to our school communities:

- I worked with our City Councillor Paula Fletcher to co-host sessions on the traffic impacts of the Ontario Line, and to advocate for increased information-sharing by Metrolinx with our community. I continue to work with the Councillor to advance traffic calming initiatives around schools.
- I joined our MPP Peter Tabuns on sessions to discuss the impact of provincial child care policies on the availability of child care in our community.



Community Advocacy

I support community advocacy that aligns with the needs of our children. In particular:

- I support the Save Ontario Science Centre rallies in our community and their letter writing campaign to the Premier.
- I support the Ontario Federation of Labour's campaign for upper temperature limits for workers, which would support cooling our schools.
- I continue to encourage advocacy for clean air in schools through Ontario School Safety.



2024-2025 Information



Your School Trustee
Sara Ehrhardt
 Ward 15, Toronto-Danforth
 Tel: 416-395-8787
 E-mail: Sara.Ehrhardt@tdsb.on.ca

Find Your School & School Superintendent:

www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School

Board Office at 416-397-3000 or GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca

PA Days & Holidays	Date
Labour Day	September 2, 2024
Elementary School PA Day	September 27, 2024
Board-wide PA Day	October 11, 2024
Thanksgiving	October 14, 2024
Board-wide PA Day	November 15, 2024
Board-wide PA Day	November 29, 2024
Winter Break	December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025
Elementary School PA Day	January 17, 2025
Secondary School PA Day	January 30, 2025
Board-wide PA Day	February 14, 2025
Family Day	February 17, 2025
Mid-Winter Break	March 10 - 14, 2025
Good Friday	April 18, 2025
Easter Monday	April 21, 2025
Victoria Day	May 19, 2025
Elementary School PA Day	June 6, 2025
Secondary School PA Day	June 26, 2025
Secondary School PA Day	June 27, 2025

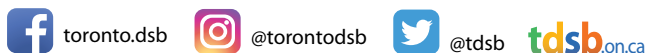
First day of classes for students is Tuesday, September 3, 2024
 The last day of classes for elementary students is June 27, 2025.
 The last day of classes for secondary students is June 25, 2025.

Days of Significance

For more information, please visit

www.tdsb.on.ca/schoolyearcalendar www.tdsb.on.ca/daysofsignificance

Follow the TDSB on Social Media



Parent Concern Protocol

Classroom Teacher

STEP ONE

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

School Principal

STEP TWO

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

School Superintendents

STEP THREE

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

Trustees

STEP FOUR

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

Board Office

You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing Education
- Night and summer school
- Adult education
- ESL
- Board documents

Phone: 416-397-3000 • Email: GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca