

Specialized Programs



Specialized Schools and Programs

TDSB students have access to specialized programs that offer unique opportunities and focus on a variety of interests. Each specialized program has specific requirements as well as unique admission criteria. Application to Specialized Programs is made directly to each program based on [Optional Attendance](#).

Optional Attendance

Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. The "Find Your School" section of the website identifies the designated schools for each residential address.

Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying on optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability. The procedures, conditions and timelines relating to optional attendance are described in the Optional Attendance Policy and the Optional Attendance Operational Procedure

The Process

- Each year in December, schools are classified as **limited** or **closed** to optional attendance based on the space they have available for the upcoming school year.
- A school classified as **limited** can accept students on optional attendance. A limited school is not obliged to accept all students who apply on optional attendance. Acceptance is conditional upon space being available in the appropriate grade and program.

- A school classified as **closed** cannot accept any students on optional attendance. Only students residing within the school's attendance area will be accepted.

If a school is classified as limited, and you are interested in applying to that school, please contact the school's principal.

***Please note that Optional Attendance status is updated every December for admission in September of the coming school year. Many school that are limited have their available spaces filled through the Optional Attendance process.**



Optional Attendance Form

Application for a **Secondary** program at a school outside the resident area

Date _____

Name of Requested Secondary School: <input type="text"/>	Requested Start Date: _____	
	For Grade : _____	Number of Credits presently earned: _____
Home or Sending School: <input type="text"/>	Does a sibling presently attend the requested school and will continue to attend in the next school year? Please check (✓) Yes _____ No _____ If YES: Name of Sibling _____	

Parents please note: Transportation is not provided for Optional Attendance Students

Applicant's Information:

Surname: _____ Given Names: _____ Birthdate: _____ (DD/MM/YY)

Student's Address: _____ Apt. # _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Present Grade/Class: _____ Student School I.D. Number: _____

Student e-mail address (Print Clearly): _____

Is the applicant under **Optional Attendance** at the present school? Yes/No

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian's e-mail address (Print Clearly) _____

Secondary Program Applications: Student may choose up to four (4) schools ONLY. Two (2) specialized programs, two (2) regular programs outside of your home school.

Specialized Programs & Schools	Regular Programs/ Schools Outside your Home School
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____

Conditions on the reverse of this form have been read and agreed to:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Student Signature (18 years of age or older): _____

Current School Principal (or Designate) **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

For Office Use Only: Requested School's Decision: Accepted Not Accepted

Signature of Requested School Principal: _____ Date: _____

Distribution: 1 copy: To Parent/Guardian when decision is made
1 copy: To TDSB Home or Sending School

Important Dates

Elementary Optional Attendance – Key Dates:

February 15, 2019

Optional attendance forms due at elementary school

March 8, 2019

Deadline for parents/guardians to be informed of the status of the application request

March 22, 2019

Parents/guardians must inform the requested school of their acceptance of the offer

Secondary Optional Attendance – Key Dates:

February 1, 2019

Optional attendance forms due at secondary school

February 15, 2019

Deadline for parents/guardians of students to be informed of the status of the application request

February 22, 2019

Course selection sheets due at elementary schools

March 1, 2019

Course selection sheets due at secondary schools

Africentric Secondary Program

This program offers students the opportunity to learn in some of their courses through an Africentric lens. This program provides an alternative way of learning while still being part of the Winston Churchill CI and Downsview SS communities.

- [Downsview SS](#)
- [Winston Churchill CI](#)



Arts Focus/Programs

Do you wish to pursue visual and performing arts at a professional level? A specialized arts program may be for you!

Arts Focussed Schools

- [Claude Watson Secondary Arts Program at Earl Haig SS](#)
- [Etobicoke School of the Arts](#)
- [Rosedale Heights School of the Arts](#)
- [Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts](#)

Arts Programs

- [Central Technical School](#)
- [CW Jefferys CI](#)
- [Downsview SS](#)
- [George Vanier SS](#)

Cyber Arts/Studies

A project-based, student-driven, enriched environment? Cyber Arts programs integrate artistic expression and knowledge of design with technical experience combining the Fine Arts with Computer Technology and Communication Media.

Cyber Arts

- [Don Mills CI](#)
- [Lakeshore CI](#)
- [Northview Heights SS](#)
- [Western Technical Commercial School](#)

Cyber Studies

- Cybridge @ [George Harvey CI](#)
- [Emery CI](#)
- [SATEC](#) @ WA Porter CI

Elite Athletes/Arts

Are you a provincial or national athlete? TDSB Elite Athletes/Arts programs will accommodate your needs and allow special timetables and unusual arrangements to coexist with coaching and travel schedules.

- [Birchmount Park CI](#)
- [Northview Heights SS](#)
- [Silverthorn CI](#)

Integrated Technology

In this program, students are encouraged to use math, science and tech skills in all subject areas. It encourages students to combine the knowledge of traditional academic disciplines with a problem solving approach to change.

- [Ursula Franklin Academy](#)

International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate Program is a world renowned graduation diploma, recognized for admission to universities throughout the world. All external examinations, certificates and diplomas are prepared, graded and awarded by the Geneva-based International Baccalaureate Office.

- [Monarch Park CI](#)
- [Parkdale CI](#)
- [Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI](#)
- [Victoria Park CI](#)
- [Weston CI](#)

Leadership Pathway

The Leadership Pathway program helps students assume ownership for their leadership development. Students must take the initiative to become involved in a variety of in-school and community leadership opportunities. Students develop and expand their leadership skills through involvement in clubs and councils, specialized classes, additional community involvement hours, guest speaker sessions and workshops.

- [RH King Academy](#)

Math, Science & Technology

Do you have a deep understanding and interest in math, science or technology? These specialized programs may be for you.

- [Bloor CI](#)
- [CW Jefferys CI](#)
- [Danforth C & TI](#)
- [Georges Vanier SS](#)
- [John Polanyi CI](#)
- [Kipling CI](#)
- [Marc Garneau CI](#)
- [Northview Heights SS](#)
- [Runnymede CI](#)
- [SATEC @ WA Porter CI](#)
- [West Humber CI](#)
- [William Lyon MacKenzie](#)

***** Parents/Guardians are to be mindful that a test has to be taken as part of the admissions process for some of these programs i.e., Bloor TOPs, William Lyon Mackenzie-MaCS program**

Media Arts

Experience a program where television and media arts technologies or graphic design are integrated with a focus on production, live production or print media.

- [Cedarbrae CI](#)
- [Stephen Leacock CI](#)

Advanced Placement (AP)

AP is a specialized enrichment program that focuses on mathematics, computers, sciences, arts and humanities.

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) allows students to earn a Grade 12, University Preparation credit and pursue university level work while still in high school. In partnership with the College Board, schools offer AP exams which are compiled by the Development Committee which consists of representatives from a wide range of well known universities. These exams are graded by university professors and experienced AP teachers from different parts of the world by using common scoring standards. Successful completion of the AP exam may result in the opportunity to earn placement into second year university courses.

- [Winston Churchill CI](#)
- [York Memorial CI](#)
- [Central Toronto Academy](#)
- [David and Mary Thomson CI](#)
- [Jarvis CI](#)
- [Lakeshore CI](#)
- [Martingrove CI](#)
- [West Humber CI](#)
- [West Hill CI](#)

Pre-Advanced Placement- Pre AP

- Pre-AP is a specialized enrichment program that focussed on mathematics, computers, sciences, arts and humanities.

Alternative Schools/Programs

- Alternative schools vary and are aimed at providing students with an alternative educational experience suited to their learning styles/preferences and/or needs. Each of the schools and programs differs in their approach to student learning and program structure.

Alternative Schools

Elementary

- [Africentric Alternative School](#)
- [ALPHA Alternative Junior School](#)
- [ALPHA II Alternative School](#)
- [Avondale Elementary Alternative School](#)
- [Beaches Alternative Junior School](#)
- [City View Alternative Senior School](#)
- [da Vinci School](#)
- [Delta Alternative Senior School](#)
- [Downtown Alternative School](#)
- [East Alternative School of Toronto](#)
- [Equinox Holistic Alternative School](#)
- [Hawthorne II Bilingual Alternative Junior School](#)
- [High Park Alternative Junior School](#)
- [Horizon Alternative Senior School](#)
- [Mountview Alternative Junior School](#)
- [Quest Alternative Senior School](#)
- [Scarborough Village Public School](#)
- [Spectrum Alternative Senior School](#)
- [The Grove Community School](#)

Secondary

- [ALPHA II Alternative School](#)
- [Alternative Scarborough Education 1](#)
- [Avondale Secondary Alternative School](#)
- [City School](#)
- [Contact Alternative School](#)
- [Delphi Secondary Alternative School](#)
- [East York Alternative Secondary School](#)
- [Etobicoke Year Round Alternative Centre](#)
- [Inglenook Community School](#)
- [North East Year Round Alternative Centre](#)
- [North West Year Round Alternative Centre](#)
- [Oasis Alternative Secondary School](#)
 - [Arts and Social Change Program](#)
 - [Triangle Program](#)
 - [Skateboard Factory](#)
- [Parkview Alternative School](#)
- [School of Experiential Education](#)
- [School of Life Experience](#)
- [SEED Alternative School](#)
- [South East Year Round Alternative Centre](#)
- [Subway Academy I](#)
- [Subway Academy II](#)
- [THESTUDENTSCHOOL](#)
- [West End Alternative School](#)

Cisco/Nortel Systems- C/N systems

- These programs provide specialized equipment and staff training so that Technology departments can offer selected students the opportunity to earn CISCO/Nortel Networking certification through the completion of successive Communications Technology credits.

Extended French- ExF

- These courses have been designed for students who have had 1,080 to 1,440 hours of instruction in French in elementary school. The program includes French, plus other subjects studied in the French language. Effective 2003, students who have completed 7 credits in Extended French and other subjects taught in French will earn a Certificate of Bilingual Studies in Extended French. Four of these credits must be Extended French.

French Immersion - FI

- These courses have been designed for students who have had 3,000 to 6,000 hours of instruction in French in elementary school. This program includes French, plus other subjects studied in the French language. Effective 2003, to earn a Certificate of Bilingual Studies in Immersion students will be required to complete 10 credits in French of which four must be in Immersion French.

Gifted - GI

- Programs for students identified by an IPRC
- A Formal Assessment was conducted
- Parents/Guardians signed off on documents regarding the programming for their child
- Centrally assigned schools are provided for Parents/Guardians to consider for their child
- Can accept or decline
- Can advocate for school of choice

LEAP - LP

- The Literacy Enrichment Academic Program (LEAP) is for newcomers who need intensive upgrading in literacy, mathematics, and study skills due to restricted educational opportunity in their previous country. Currently, LEAP is offered in 18 secondary schools.
- Students are assessed to determine level of mastery of the English language and placed accordingly.
- East and West testing locations at the Newcomer Welcome Centres

Specialist High Skills Major- SHSM

- SHSM is a ministry approved specialized program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements to graduate from secondary school. It also assists in their transition after graduation to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace.

Grades, Exams & Diplomas

- Grades, exams and tests are all a part of high school. In addition to regular tests and exams in your courses, every high school student is required to complete two secondary school assessments including:
 - [Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics](#)
 - [Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test](#) (OSSLT)
- As you work towards completing all of the requirements for your Ontario Secondary School Diploma, you will receive regular [report cards](#) along the way to let you know how you're doing.
- [Getting Your Diploma](#) – OSSD Ontario Secondary School Diploma

Achievement and EQAO

- EQAO – or the Education Quality and Accountability Office – is an independent agency of the Ontario government. Its provincial assessment program for primary, junior and secondary students provides parents, teachers and the public with information about student achievement that will help improve teaching and learning.
- EQAO assesses all students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 in reading, writing and mathematics. View "[A Parent's Guide to EQAO Tests.](#)"

There are also two secondary school assessments:

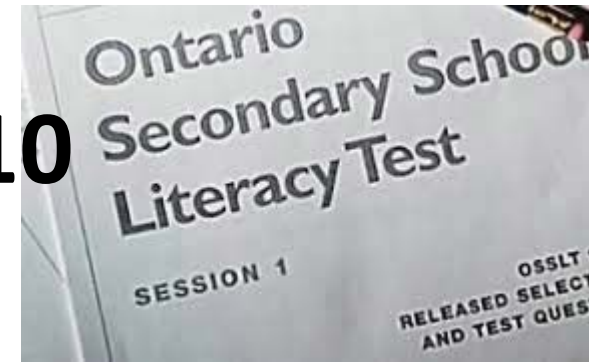
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) taken annually in March
- Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics taken in January by students enrolled in first-semester mathematics courses and in May/June to students enrolled in second-semester and full-year courses

Grade 9 Mathematics test



- **Mathematics in Grade 9**
- In January and June of 2018, the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) administered assessments in Mathematics to Grade 9 students across Ontario. Students enrolled in Grade 9 Applied and Academic Mathematics courses in the first semester wrote the assessment in January. Students enrolled in second-semester and full-year courses wrote the assessment in June. At the time of the assessments, the TDSB had **12,483** Grade 9 students in Academic Mathematics courses and **3,593** Grade 9 students in Applied Mathematics courses.
- The assessment measures how well students have met the provincial expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Mathematics*. EQAO develops separate versions of the assessment for students in Applied and Academic courses. Approximately 40% of the items are common to both assessments because some of the expectations overlap. The assessments include multiple choice questions, a short-answer component, and questions that require extended written responses.
- Student performance is evaluated using a four-level scale that is consistent with the four levels in *The Ontario Curriculum*.
- **Level 4 (80-100%)**: The student has demonstrated a very high to outstanding level of achievement. Achievement is above the provincial standard.
- **Level 3 (70-79%)**: The student has demonstrated a high level of achievement. Achievement is at the provincial standard.
- **Level 2 (60-69%)**: The student has demonstrated some of the required knowledge and skills. Achievement is below, but approaching, the provincial standard.
- **Level 1 (50-59%)**: The student has demonstrated a passable level of achievement. Achievement is below the provincial standard.
- Summary results are reported using two methods:
- **All Students (Method 1)** includes all students in the course. In addition to the percentage of students at each of the four levels, percentages are reported for no data and below Level 1. "Below Level 1" means the student has not demonstrated sufficient achievement of curriculum expectations (below 50%). "No data" is used for students who did not have a result due to absence or other reasons.
- **Participating Students (Method 2)** includes students who actually took part in the assessment and produced at least some work that could be scored. Students are excluded from these calculations if they had no data.
- **Academic Mathematics Results**
- Over the past five years (2013-14 to 2017-18), the percentage of Grade 9 students who performed at or above the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) decreased by 3 percentage points, from 82% to 79% in Academic Mathematics.

Literacy in Grade 10



Background

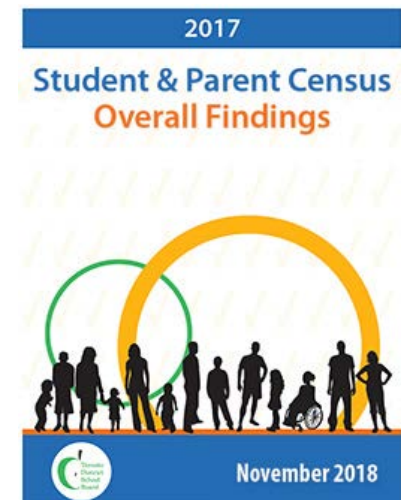
- The purpose of the EQAO Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is to provide greater confidence in the literacy skills of students graduating with the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). **15,774** TDSB Grade 10 students were eligible to take the OSSLT for the first time in 2017-18. Of these students, **14,309** fully participated in the OSSLT (the other eligible students were deferred until a later administration, or they were absent during the test). Literacy is defined as having the reading and writing skills required to understand reading selections and to communicate through written forms. The OSSLT measures whether or not students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.
- **First-Time Eligible Students' Results**
- In 2017-2018, TDSB results for successful first-time eligible students in Grade 10 stayed the same at 81% compared to 2016-2017. At the same time, the proportion of successful first-time eligible students in the province declined by 2 percentage points from 81% to 79%.

Credit Recovery

- When you complete a course within a school year or semester, but do not successfully completed the curriculum expectations to a passing level, there are options available. Your Principal and teachers will work with you and your parents to determine how you can best meet the expectations and earn credit for the course. Arrangements should be made so that one or more of the following options is available:
- 1. Where possible, you should be allowed to repeat only the material relating to the overall curricular expectations not achieved. You may choose to achieve these expectations in summer school, through independent study, through an individualized remediation program, or through distance education. Your work will be evaluated to determine whether the expectations have been successfully completed.
- 2. If available, you can enrol in a remedial program designed for a group of students with similar needs.
- 3. You may decide to repeat the entire course
- Through Credit Recovery, you will develop learning skills that will support you in the regular classroom setting. Credit Recovery courses focus on overall curriculum expectations, often within the supportive context of a Learning Strategies course. The goal is to ensure that you are able to meet curriculum expectations and prepare to move forward along your chosen program pathway.

TDSB 2017 Student and Parent Census Data

- *Student voice key driver in supporting achievement and well-being*
- Details about who TDSB students are, their school experiences, relationships at school, physical health and emotional well-being are all part of the 2017 Student and Parent Census.
- More than 220,000 students and parents completed the census to provide a comprehensive picture of who our students are. This rich data allows the TDSB to respond directly to student and parent voices to develop strategies and adjust supports to better help students' achievement and well-being.
- In line with the 2012 Census, parent data was positive overall showing a majority of parents of students in JK to Grade 6 felt welcome in their child's school, respected, that rules were applied fairly, that their child receives the support they need and that they're satisfied with their child's education.



Accessing myBlueprint.ca/tdsb

Online educational & career planning tool for students and parents

Are you ready for

high school?

Signup with **myBlueprint** and get prepared.

CREATE YOUR INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN (IPP)

- 1 Visit www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb
- 2 Select your high school or login

You may require your Ontario Education Number (OEN)

- ✓ Plan your **courses** for high school
- ✓ Discover your **learning style** and **interests**
- ✓ Set S.M.A.R.T. **goals** and **action plans**
- ✓ Create a visual **resume** and **cover letter**
- ✓ Compare **college** and **university programs**
- ✓ Explore **skilled trades/apprenticeships**
- ✓ Research **occupations** and **jobs**
- ✓ Learn to **budget** your money

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QUESTIONS??

