



North Bendale Junior PS and Tredway Woodsworth PS Grade Change Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Program Area Review?

A **Program Area Review Team** (PART) looks at the programs offered within a community or grouping of schools and identifies program gaps or space needs. It may involve looking at a range of options to increase access to programs including the establishment of new schools, introduction of new specialized programs or possible changes to grade configurations. To learn more about a Program Area Review, please visit:

https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/TDS130%20ParentGuardian%20Fact-revised-final-print%20version-Nov.%202020%2C%202017.pdf

A PART is one of the strategies included in the Board's Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS), a document that was first created in 2014 and is reviewed annually. The strategy provides an approach to program and accommodation planning with a ten-year timeframe that allows for responsiveness and flexibility in a changing environment. It is a roadmap for the future that identifies future studies that could lead to Accommodation Reviews.

To learn more about the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy, please visit:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Long-Term-Program-and-Accommodation-Strategy>

2. When would the grade range expansion start?

The grade range expansion at North Bendale Jr PS is proposed to begin in September 2025 with North Bendale Jr PS retaining its Grade 7 cohort. Staff is also seeking to survey current Grade 7 students at Tredway Woodsworth PS who graduated Grade 6 at North Bendale Jr PS in June 2024 to determine the interest level in returning to Grade 8 at North Bendale Jr PS in September 2025.

3. What would be done to ensure Grade 7 and 8 students at North Bendale Jr PS would be prepared for the transition to a much larger secondary school?

Many schools within the TDSB have a JK-8 model. While preparing for the grade expansion we would look to speak with other schools who have recently undergone similar expansions to learn from their experiences. The library will be expanded to include intermediate level materials. There will be greater leadership and mentorship opportunities for the Grade 7 and 8 students with the younger grades. Communications will be ongoing to ensure a smooth transition for elementary school students into secondary school.

4. Will students still be able to go to Tredway Woodsworth PS if they want the middle school experience?

If the recommendation to expand the grade range at North Bendale Jr PS is approved by the Board of Trustees, the pathway to Tredway Woodsworth PS will no longer exist for students residing in the North Bendale Jr PS attendance area beginning in September 2025. Students may have the option to apply to Tredway Woodsworth PS (or other middle schools) via Out-of-Area Admissions should they wish to attend another school for Grades 7 and 8. Note that only schools with a “Limited” Out-of-Area Admissions status would be able to consider taking students from outside its local attendance area.

5. Will there be any capital improvements made at North Bendale Jr PS to accommodate the intermediate programming?

There is no funding available to make capital improvements for this grade range expansion, including items such as installing lockers or purpose-built science labs. There are many K-8 schools within the TDSB that do not have purpose-built specialty rooms but are able to successfully deliver programming to the intermediate grades.



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6. Are any changes to secondary school boundaries being considered in the North Bendale Jr PS grade range expansion review.

No. The scope of this review is to look at changing the grade range for North Bendale Jr PS to serve JK to Grade 8. Any changes to the secondary attendance areas for schools involved in this review have the potential for significant implications on secondary school enrolment and utilization. Realignment of secondary boundaries for the elementary schools in this review will require coordinated consideration of programs and boundaries for several secondary schools. Secondary reviews will be prioritized within the upcoming Long-Term Program & Accommodation Strategy for approval by the Board of Trustees.