

Trustee Update

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Toronto District School Board

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May 2025 Newsletter

Budget 2025–2026: What You Need to Know

I would like to bring to your attention a critical issue currently affecting our schools. The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is facing a projected budget shortfall of \$58 million for the 2025 school year.

Since 2019, funding per student has effectively been reduced by up to \$1,500 annually when adjusted for inflation. This has resulted in over \$340 million in lost funding across the entire system. Compounding this issue, the Financial Accountability Office (FAO) reported in 2024 that the province's share of education spending has dropped significantly—from 24% of the provincial budget in 2019 to just 18% in 2023.

Furthermore, TDSB spends over \$40 million annually to operate schools with very low student populations. This inefficient allocation of limited resources not only drains our budget but also deprives students in these schools of the full range of programming available to those in more populated schools. Despite repeated requests, the provincial government has consistently denied the TDSB's proposals to consolidate these under-enrolled schools.

In response to these financial challenges, TDSB trustees have already made significant budget reductions, totaling tens of millions of dollars, and continue to actively seek additional savings. However, these efforts are limited by provincial obligations and funding restrictions that severely constrain the Board's ability to allocate resources with flexibility.

To manage previous budget deficits, TDSB has reduced central staff and senior administration. Compared to other Ontario school boards, we employ approximately 30% fewer superintendents per school. In line with our commitment to fiscal responsibility, we've already eliminated three superintendent positions, along with their administrative support, to further reduce costs.

Additionally, in the past two years, we've eliminated seven Centrally Assigned Principal positions, while working to preserve direct services and programs for students. The TDSB has also streamlined central administration by cutting over 90 positions, saving approximately \$10 million annually.

The provincial government has decided to send PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to audit TDSB's operations. I welcome this review, as it's essential we receive the support needed to use our funding more effectively. This audit will help ensure every dollar is spent efficiently, maximizing resources for our students' education and enabling us to continue providing the best programs and services.

As we work through this difficult situation, the Board is being forced to make some tough decisions, including potential reductions in staffing and programs. We recognize that these choices could have a direct impact on students, and we are committed to minimizing those effects as much as possible. We continue to strongly advocate for the provincial government to provide the funding our students need and deserve to ensure their success.

We remain focused on safeguarding our students' education and will continue doing everything we can to navigate this challenging financial landscape.

For additional information, please visit [Toronto District School Board Budget](#).

Asian Heritage Month - May 2025

Since 2007, the TDSB has proudly celebrated Asian Heritage Month, recognizing the rich cultural diversity and contributions of Asian Canadian communities. This year's theme, Asian Canadians Up and Rising, highlights the strength, resilience, and remarkable achievements of Asian Canadians. Throughout May, we invite you to explore various educational opportunities that honor and celebrate these communities. Read the [full Asian Heritage Month message](#) to discover exciting events, workshops, and resources designed to inspire and educate our students and staff.

Jewish Heritage Month - May 2025

Jewish Heritage Month is a special time for the TDSB to recognize and celebrate the social, economic, political, and cultural contributions of Jewish Canadians. This May, the TDSB's Jewish Heritage Committee has curated a series of impactful, innovative, and inspirational opportunities for students to engage with Jewish heritage and culture. We encourage you to learn more about these enriching experiences and join us in celebrating the vibrant Jewish community within our schools. [Read the full message to learn more.](#)

New-Build Funding for TDSB Indigenous Education

The TDSB is [advocating for urgent funding to build a new Indigenous Education school](#), led by the Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee. This initiative aims to create an innovative hub for Urban Indigenous Education, accommodating students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, along with a childcare centre. Rooted in Indigenous teachings and community, the new standalone and fully Indigenized building for Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit School will provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for students across Toronto. This vision honors our commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Despite persistent efforts, attempts to secure new-build funding through the Ministry of Education's Capital Priorities Program have not yet been successful. The Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees are requesting transparent and accessible funding that reflects the current construction market and aligns with our commitments to Truth and Reconciliation.

Key Education Priorities for the 2025 Federal Election

With Prime Minister Mark Carney now elected as Canada's next leader, the TDSB is urging the new government to [address key education priorities that impact the future of public education](#). As Canada's largest school board, serving approximately 239,000 students, we highlight four crucial areas: sustainable funding for Indigenous education, the implementation of a national school food program, increased support for childcare spaces, and enhanced resources for newcomer and refugee students. These priorities are essential for the success and well-being of students in Toronto and across Canada. We hope these critical issues will be thoughtfully integrated into the new government's agenda.

TDSB Budget Update

The Toronto District School Board [continues to face budget challenges](#) in meeting the needs of our schools and services. While we are committed to using our resources responsibly, the funding from the provincial government is insufficient to meet the needs of Toronto students. We are facing a projected structural deficit of approximately \$58 million for the 2025-26 school year. While [a number of options](#) have been brought forward to Trustees for consideration, it's important to note that no final decisions have been made. The Core Education funding for 2025-26 has

yet to be announced and when it is, staff will update the financial projections and inform Trustees.

Special Education and Inclusion Newsletter for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

We are excited to share the [monthly Special Education and Inclusion Newsletter](#), designed to support families in navigating the journey of supporting students with special education needs. Each edition is packed with valuable resources, practical tips, and inspiring success stories to empower families and their children. The goal is to provide you with the tools and information you need to help your child thrive. Click the link above to find all editions or click the following links to read the May 2025 publication via [PDF](#) or [Microsoft Word](#).

Graduation Fair for Students with Disabilities/Special Education Needs and Families

Students preparing for graduation and life beyond school are warmly [invited to attend the in-person Graduation Fair on May 14](#). This event is designed to provide valuable information and support for students with disabilities and special education needs, as well as their families. The fair will feature a variety of information booths, including Community Support Services, Post-21 Programs, Employment Assistance Agencies, and Academic Institutions & Accessibility Services Offices. We encourage you to [learn more and register online](#). You can also [access translations of the event flyer](#). Walk-ins are welcome, so feel free to join us and explore the resources available to help you navigate the transition from school to the next exciting chapter of life.

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Engagement Session: Strategies and Resources to Support Students with ADHD

The Special Education and Inclusion team is excited to host an engagement session focused on exploring strategies and resources to support students diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This session is designed to provide valuable insights and practical tools for parents, guardians, and caregivers to better support their children's learning and well-being. Events will be held on Wednesday, May 28 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and on Thursday, May 29 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Explore the TDSB's Math Achievement Action Plan

The [Math Achievement Action Plan](#) is dedicated to enhancing mathematics teaching, learning, and achievement across the district. We are excited to share the latest highlights and progress from this initiative. We invite you to [read the community newsletter](#) to stay informed about our efforts and improvements.

2025-26 Student Senate Election

The Student Senate is a vital link between students, Student Trustees, and Trustees, ensuring that student voices are represented at the Board level. We are excited to announce that the [2025-26 Student Senate Election](#) will take place on June 3 and 4. TDSB students currently in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11 were able to apply through an application link sent to their student email accounts. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to make a difference and have their voices heard. We encourage all eligible students to get out and vote later this June!

Children's Mental Health Week: May 5-11, 2025

This year, the TDSB is proud to observe Children's Mental Health Week with the theme "Unmasking Mental Health". We invite everyone to join us in dismantling the stigma surrounding mental health by focusing on wellness and positive mental health. This week offers a valuable opportunity to reflect, learn, and take small steps toward supporting mental well-being every day. We encourage you to explore the [resources available to support your child's mental health and well-being](#). Together, we can create a supportive and understanding environment for all.

2025-26 School Year Calendar

We are pleased to announce that the [2025-26 School Year Calendar is now available online](#). The first day of classes for all students is Tuesday, September 2, 2025. We encourage families to review the calendar and plan ahead for the upcoming school year. Stay informed about important dates and events to ensure a smooth and successful start to the new academic year.

Thank You for Supporting the Winter Outerwear Drive!

A heartfelt thank you to all the generous donors and contributors who made the Winter Outerwear Drive a success! Thanks to your support, 1,535 students across 22 schools remained warm and ready to learn this winter. Since 2020, more than 17,960 students have benefitted from this campaign. Your kindness and generosity have made a significant impact on the lives of many students. [Learn more about the drive](#) and how you can continue to support our community.

2025 Summer International Languages Elementary & African Heritage Program (July 2 to July 25, 2025) Registration is open!

Please inform below:



**2025 Summer International Languages Elementary &
African Heritage Program (July 2 to July 25, 2025)
Registration is open!**



School	Languages Offered	Program Time (Mon-Fri)
Charles E Webster PS	Amharic Tigrinya	9:00-11:30 am
	African Heritage	12:00-2:30 pm
Crestview PS	Cantonese Mandarin Simplified Mandarin Traditional	9:00-11:30 am
Cummer Valley MS	Cantonese, Korean Mandarin Simplified Mandarin Traditional Spanish, Ukrainian	9:00-11:30 am
Forest Manor PS	Farsi, Hindi Tamil, Tagalog	9:00-11:30 am
Mary Shadd PS	Hindi, Sanskrit and Tamil	9:00-11:30 am
North Kipling JMS	Arabic, Somali and Tamil	1:30-4:00 pm
Pleasant View PS	American Sign Language Mandarin Simplified Romanian	9:00-11:30 am
King Edward Jr and Sr PS	Mandarin Simplified	9:00-11:30 am

Note: Additional languages may be offered if a minimum of 25 students are enrolled.

For more information, please visit www.ileahprograms.ca or call/email 416-338-4100, ile_ah@tdsb.on.ca



International Languages – Elementary & African Heritage Summer Program

July 2 - July 25, 2025

School: Charles E. Webster

Location: 1900 Keele Street

Program Schedule:

9:00 – 11:30 AM, Monday to Friday

Languages: Amharic, Tigrinya.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Supervised break for students enrolled in both AM language and PM.

Who: Senior Kindergarten (as of Sept. 2025) to Grade 8 students (TDSB and non TDSB).

Cost: \$20 materials fee for language classes.

Additional languages may be offered if a minimum of 25 students are enrolled.

Contact Information:

Grace Ocloo 416-788-2180

Grace.Ocloo@tdsb.on.ca

African Heritage Program

The African Heritage Program connects students to the contributions, histories, legacies, cultures, and traditions of people of African descent through inquiry and experiential learning.

Program Schedule:

12:00 – 2:30 PM, Monday to Friday

African Heritage Program

Who: Senior Kindergarten (as of Sept. 2025) to Grade 8 students (TDSB and non TDSB).

Cost: \$20 materials fee for African Heritage.

Registration Information

Online registration now open:

<https://ereq.tdsb.on.ca/public/ilelogin.aspx>

Registration closes: June 22, 2025

Registration Requirements:

Ontario Education Number (OEN) and OHIP card is required. OEN can be found at the top of your child's report card. OHIP card is needed to verify student's name and date of birth.

For more information on other ILE Summer locations visit www.ileahprograms.ca or call/email 416-338-4100, ile_ah@tdsb.on.ca

FROM LAST MONTH

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) News

Stay connected with the latest news, updates, and resources from the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)! [PIAC's monthly newsletter](#) provides

valuable information to help parents and guardians stay informed and engaged with the TDSB community.

PIAC's mission is to support, encourage, and enhance parent engagement to improve student achievement and well-being. The group consists of volunteer parent representatives from each of the Board's 22 wards, a Trustee representative, the Director of Education (or designate), and representatives from several Community Liaison Groups.

Register for Kindergarten Today!

Register for English Kindergarten programs today! Children who will be four by December 31, 2025, are eligible to start Junior Kindergarten in September 2025. We cannot wait to welcome these young learners to TDSB schools.

Families can register their child online at tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten or in person at the school. Remember, even if you register online, you will need to validate your registration information in person at the school. Visit the [Kindergarten at the TDSB](#), [Before- and After-School Programs](#) and [Extended Day Programs](#) webpages for more information.

ONGOING REMINDERS

Virtual Drop-In Hours: Pathways to Care for Mental Health

Did you know the TDSB offers drop-in hours for educational presentations that provide the knowledge and tools necessary to support the well-being of students at home and in school? [Visit the TDSB website](#) to view session dates and themes.

Special Education and Inclusion 2024-25 Drop-In Sessions

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to offer drop-in sessions for parents, guardians, and caregivers. These sessions aim to provide information and resources for accessing special education supports and services. Participants can ask questions, share experiences, and connect with other families in a friendly environment. Please [see the flyer](#) for upcoming dates, times and links.

Official Social Media Channels

I encourage all social media users to follow the TDSB accounts for the latest news and updates. You can find us on [X](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Threads](#), and [Bluesky](#).

Questions and Concerns

Here at the TDSB, we are always open to hearing your questions and concerns and make every effort to address them as quickly as possible. Your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact, followed by the school's principal, the school superintendent, and me, your Trustee! Learn more about [Steps to Address Questions and Concerns here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025. Visit the TDSB website for a [full list of upcoming meetings](#).

Follow the TDSB

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts.

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[Instagram @Torontodsb](#)

[Threads @Torontodsb](#)



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