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2018 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Student Nutrition Programs in Toronto Public Schools

Issue/Background:

- At its meeting on December 18, 2017, Budget Committee requested the Medical Officer of Health to provide a briefing note providing the number of elementary and secondary schools which offer Student Nutrition Programs in both the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB). The request also included a summary of where the schools fall within the Learning Opportunities Index.

Key Points:

- The Student Nutrition Program is offered to 600 schools in the 2017/2018 school year. Table 1 below identifies the total number of elementary and secondary schools within the TDSB and TCDSB that are part of the Student Nutrition Program for the 2017/2018 school year.

Table 1: Total number of schools within the TDSB and TCDSB which operate municipally-funded Student Nutrition Programs in 2017/18 school year

	Elementary Schools	Secondary Schools	Total
Toronto District School Board	294	117	411
Toronto Catholic District School Board	123	35	158
le Conseil scolaire Viamonde	7	3	10
le Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud	4	2	6
Community sites	12	3	15
Total	417	154	600

- Both Toronto English public school boards produce indices of need: the Learning Opportunities Index (TDSB schools) and N-tiles (TCDSB). The Ministry of Education also produces an Education Opportunities Index (EOI) which ranks relative need of all publically funded schools in Ontario including public, Catholic, and French boards.
- These indices rank each school based on measures which look at external challenges that impact student success. Indices reflect a variety of socio-demographic data, including household income, the level of parental education completion and percentage of lone parent families. All indices are based on tax-filer and census data linked to the postal codes of students attending each school.

- It is not possible to rank all public schools in Toronto on the Learning Opportunities Index, as this only applies to TDSB schools. However, since average student family income is a major component of each index, schools across the four Toronto public school boards have been ranked based on the average percent of families living below the low-income measure in each student's neighbourhood as per Table 2 below.

Table 2: Toronto Public Schools grouped by Quintile by the Average of the Percent of Families with School-Aged Children Living below the Low Income Measure After-Tax (LIM-AT) in Students' Neighbourhoods

Quintile	Range of percent below the LIM-AT (%)	Average % of families below the LIM-AT	Percent of schools within Quintile that have municipally funded SNPs (%)
1 (lowest average income)	36.1 - 64.5	42	90
2	31.3 - 36.1	33	84
3	24.2 - 31.2	29	72
4	20.9 - 26.1	24	50
5 (highest average income)	3.9 - 20.8	15	16

- It should be noted that there are often pockets of need in schools with higher average family incomes. This is frequently found in schools which offer specialty programs (such as robotics or arts) and therefore draw from a broader catchment area.

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