



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates close to 90,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in 195 Catholic elementary and secondary schools, approximately half-a-million Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto. As the world's largest publicly funded Catholic school system, we educate students in an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity. At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

TCDSB Moves to Ensure that all Schools Will Have Defibrillators

The Board of Trustees has approved the allocation of up to \$0.21M from the Student Equity Reserve to fund the purchase of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for 108 TCDSB schools, within the 2018-2019 school year.

In September 2011 ZOLL Medical Corporation, in partnership with the City of Toronto's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Heart and Stroke Foundation, donated 38 AEDs to TCDSB's 33 secondary schools. Between 2012 and 2014, 55 TCDSB elementary schools received an AED through a special grant from the Province, and between 2015 and 2018 the Board's health and safety department purchased five additional AEDs to meet the needs of medically fragile students with heart disease.

"There is nothing more important than the health of our students," says TCDSB Chair Maria Rizzo. "This decision will ensure that each and every school in our system will have these potentially lifesaving devices on hand in the event of an emergency."

"Access to the equipment is critical, but having staff who are confident in the use of the AEDs is equally important," says Director of Education Rory McGuckin. "We are committed to ensuring that key staff in all schools are fully trained in CPR and in the use of AEDs."

All 700 custodians and maintenance staff are to be trained in CPR and AED use during March Break 2019. The Board has also arranged ten (10) first aid courses during the 2018-2019 school year so that a minimum of two (2) staff members per school are trained in standard first aid, CPR and AED use. Most schools already have more than two (2) certified first aiders.

A communication will be sent to all parents to advise them of the plans to install AEDs in all schools.

"We appreciate the many parents who have been involved in the consultation process," says Ms. Rizzo. "We would also like to remind parents that it is critical for them to provide updated medical information for their child so the school is aware of any potentially life-threatening medical concerns."