



TCDSB Policy S.24 Combined Grades:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board promotes single grade classes where feasible. All combined (split) grade classes must meet Ministry and contractual guidelines in regards to total number of students assigned.

When single grade classes cannot be achieved, the Board is committed to ensuring that classes are balanced and functional with consideration given to student academic needs, age, behaviour, development, gender, group dynamics, learning style, physical maturity, social-emotional and special education needs and the continuity of the curriculum in regards to the overall expectations.

Wherever possible, students, will not be subject to combined (split) grade placement after two consecutive years.

To read the policy and regulations in their entirety, please visit our website at:

[http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Documents/S.%202024.%20Combined%20\(Split\)%20Grade%20Classes%20for%20Elementary%20Schools%20-%20October%202013.pdf](http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Documents/S.%202024.%20Combined%20(Split)%20Grade%20Classes%20for%20Elementary%20Schools%20-%20October%202013.pdf)



TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2016 - 2017

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Combined (Split) Grade Classes in TCDSB Elementary Schools



Combined Grades in TCDSB Elementary Schools—Our Philosophy:

Student achievement and well-being is the core pillar of the Toronto Catholic District School Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Walk into any classroom, and you will find children at various stages of social, physical and intellectual development. No two children are exactly the same, even if they are the same age. Each child has unique learning needs—strengths and areas that need improvement. Learning styles and preferences are unique to each student.

Teachers are trained to differentiate the instruction and adjust the learning program in the classroom to the needs of each student. In combined grade classes, teachers use evidence based strategies to teach the curriculum.



The Board understands that children learn continuously; their intellectual, social and personal development does not occur in compartmentalized, grade-specific segments.

Our primary concern as advocates for children is to provide a stable, effective learning environment for all students in our care.

Research has shown that achievement levels of combined grade class students are as good as and usually better than the achievement levels of students placed in single grade classes.

Findings also show that children in classes where there is more than one age level learn to become more independent, responsible learners and develop a greater degree of social responsibility. Students in combined grade classes generally develop a greater sense of belonging, support and confidence.

“Research indicates that students in combined grades classrooms achieve the same level of academic results as those in single grade classes. Some researchers believe that this occurs as a result of student selection as well as effective teaching.”

December 2007, What Works?
Research into Practice Monograph #9,
Ontario Ministry of Education

The Benefits of Combined Grade Settings:

- Creates opportunities for students to learn from one another
- Provides role models for younger students
- Allows older students to get a clear understanding of what they have already learned
- Provides a curriculum suited to the needs of each student
- Encourages students to work collaboratively
- Fosters the development of confidence and independence
- Teaches students to respect one another

