

Support Programs for Struggling Students



From time to time, students struggle in school. Some may need specialized Special Education programs to help them, but others may just need a little extra help to be successful.

There are several programs offered in Toronto schools to support struggling students.

Early Intervention (Kindergarten)

If students get enough support in the early grades, they will be less likely to need more expensive special education programs in later years. In Toronto, there are two English-language Boards of Education – the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).

Both boards offer programs for kindergarten students who are struggling with the adjustment to school.

The **Kindergarten Intervention Program** (TDSB) and **Kindergarten Intervention and Needs (KIND) Program** (TCDSB) are for students who are having difficulty adjusting to school. These programs offer extra support in following classroom routines and developing social skills, and strengthen students' academic abilities.

The **Kindergarten Early Language Intervention (KELI) Program** (TDSB) and the **Kindergarten Language Program** (TCDSB) provide intensive language and literacy support to students in Senior Kindergarten who have delayed oral language development. Students attend the regular Kindergarten program, and spend two extra half-days per week in the language program. The programs are run by a teacher and a speech-language pathologist.

The kindergarten teacher will let you know if your child needs the extra help provided through these programs.

Both boards have **Parenting and Family Literacy Centres** with drop-in programs for parents and children from birth to six years old. The programs are run by qualified early childhood educators, and offer everything from literacy support to vision and hearing screenings. To find the Centre nearest you, go to the

TCDSB site at: <http://www.tcdsb.org/parents/parenting-centres.htm> or the TDSB site at: http://www.tdsb.on.ca/parents/parenting_and_family_literacy/finder.asp

Programs for Elementary Students

Most schools offer a range of programs to support struggling elementary students. The following are just a few examples. Ask the principal about what is available in your school.

The **Early Reading Intervention Program**, offered in some schools in the TDSB helps grade 1 students who are struggling with reading. Volunteer university students, under the guidance of the classroom teacher, work with students to help build early reading skills.

The TCDSB Board offers support for students in grades 4 and 5 through the **Junior Literacy Intervention Program**, an intensive, short-term program to help students develop effective reading skills. Students work in small groups with a Junior Literacy teacher, and get instruction in reading skills and strategies.

The **Tutors in the Classroom** program, a partnership between the Toronto District School Board and the province's Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, provides elementary schools with paid tutors (full-time college or university students) to help students-at-risk.

Literacy & Numeracy Support

The Continuing Education Department at the TDSB offers after-school literacy and numeracy tutoring programs for students in grades 7 to 12. Students work on developing skills and concepts to help them succeed in the regular classroom. For more information, contact the Department at 416-338-4333, or by email to coned@tdsb.on.ca.

Summer School

Both Toronto Boards offer summer programs for students in grades 7 and 8 who are struggling in reading or math. For more information, contact the continuing education departments. At the TCDSB, go to their website at; <http://www.tcdsb.org/continuinged/summer-school/elementary/gr78.htm>.





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For the TDSB go to www.InTheZone.ca, phone 416-338-4333, or email to coned@tdsb.on.ca.

Transition to High School

Some high schools offer orientation programs for students starting secondary school. These programs help students prepare for high school life, and are often offered in the week before school starts in September. Both Toronto school boards also offer extra support for at-risk students entering high school.

Secondary School

Student Success Program

Every high school has a Student Success Program, to provide extra support for students who are struggling and or who need help to graduate. Students get individualized attention from a Student Success Teacher, have someone to go to for help with problems, and learn about the different opportunities available to them. The guidance counsellor or the vice-principal in the school will be able to tell you how to get help for your student from the Student Success Program.

Summer School and Night School

Secondary students who are unsuccessful in one or more courses can make up these credits by taking the course in a summer school program, or, sometimes, through night school. Students can also earn missing credits through online courses. For more information about available courses and programs, contact your school's guidance department or contact the Continuing Education department at the TDSB by phone at 416-338-4222 or by email at coned@tdsb.on.ca. The contact for Continuing Education at the TCDSB is 416-222-8282 extension 2675 or on their website at: <http://www.tcdsb.org/continuinged/>.

Credit Recovery and Credit Rescue

Credit recovery provides students with an opportunity to earn credits in courses that they have failed. The

program is designed to meet the needs of the individual student, focussing only on the areas of the course where the student was not successful. *Credit Loss Prevention* is an in-class strategy to help students who are having difficulty by providing extra support and aggressively monitoring their progress. *Credit Rescue* may be used in-class or as a withdrawal program (students are taken out of the regular class) to provide more intensive support while the student is still attempting the credit. For more information on these programs, contact your school

On-Line Courses

There are now over 50 courses that students can take on-line. These courses are designed and graded by qualified teachers. It also allows students to study from home or at school, providing added flexibility in their schedule. For more information about on-line courses, contact the TDSB at 416-396-8481 or email the board at virtualschool@vs.tdsb.on.ca.

For the TCDSB go to <http://www.tcdsb.org/eclass/> or email eregister@tcdsb.org

Child and Youth Workers

Both Toronto school boards have trained Child and Youth Workers available to support students. They may be assigned to a specific school or may be available on an on-call basis. Child and Youth Workers work with individual students and also act as group facilitators, helping students overcome social, emotional and behavioural issues.

For More Information:

Toronto District School Board: www.tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board:
www.tcdsb.org

Ministry of Education: www.edu.gov.on.ca

People for Education: www.peopleforeducation.com