

October 30, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Update on the Placement Process for Secondary Gifted Intensive Support Programs (ISP)

A review process has been underway since last spring with respect to Secondary Gifted Intensive Support Programs (ISPs). The review process considered revising the program boundaries for the secondary Gifted ISPs in order to:

- Address equity of access to secondary Gifted ISPs across the District;
- Introduce the program in regions of the city where no program currently exists with a more reasonable proximity to student home addresses;
- Address accommodation pressures at a number of the current Gifted ISP secondary schools due to increased growth at the elementary level.

This review process included four community consultations as well as Local Feasibility Meetings that concluded on September 28, 2015.

The primary purpose of this letter is to inform you of a Board decision with respect to the placement process for students in these programs. Students in Grades four through twelve (4-12), whether currently attending a Gifted ISP or not, will be receiving this letter.

At the Board meeting on October 28, 2015, the following recommendations were approved:

1. "That the placement of students with a Gifted Exceptionality in secondary Gifted Intensive Support Programs (ISPs) be based on home address and be determined through an IPRC Review Process;
2. That students currently in existing 2015-2016 Secondary Gifted Intensive Support Programs (ISPs) will be unaffected and will remain in their current school until graduation or withdrawal from the program; and
3. That this new placement process will begin this year in time for the September 2016 school year".

As a result of the Board decision, four (4) new secondary gifted intensive support programs will be established for Grade 9 entry beginning September 2016. The new schools are Albert Campbell Collegiate Institute, A.Y. Jackson Secondary School, Birchmount Collegiate Institute and Thistletown Collegiate Institute.

The Open House dates for the ten (10) secondary schools with gifted intensive programs are:

Albert Campbell Collegiate Institute	November 10, 2015	6:30 pm
A.Y. Jackson Secondary School	January 07, 2016	7:00 pm
Birchmount Collegiate Institute	November 26, 2015	6:30 pm
Don Mills Collegiate Institute	November 19, 2015	7:00 pm
Martingrove Collegiate Institute	November 5, 2015	7:00 pm
Northern Secondary School	January 14, 2016	6:00 pm
Thistletown Collegiate Institute	November 25, 2015	7:00 pm
Western Technical Commercial School	November 17, 2015	7:00 pm
William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute	December 3, 2015	7:00 pm
Woburn Collegiate Institute	November 24, 2015	6:30 pm



Special Education and Section Programs

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The Special Education Department will continue to provide support and professional learning opportunities for schools with gifted intensive support programs.

Our Planning Department is preparing a tool that families can use to locate the secondary gifted intensive program relative to their home address; for the time being, please refer to the map provided. You may want to print a colour copy of the map on 11 X17 paper.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us or each school directly so that we may discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Uton Robinson".

Uton Robinson
Executive Superintendent
Special Education and Section Programs