

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

✉ engagement@ddsb.ca SEPTEMBER 2026



Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) welcomes all families to a new school year. We look forward to connecting with and supporting our school communities.

This issue includes information on fighting child hunger, the DDSB Student Achievement Plan, DDSB Affinity Networks, student opportunities, and new updates for secondary school students.

We can't wait to work together to make 2026-2027 a great year!



Join the School Community Council (SCC)

SCCs are vital to every DDSB school, bringing together parents, caregivers, educators, and community members to support student learning and well-being. They give families a direct voice in shaping the school experience and offer meaningful ways to stay connected to school life.

Here's why getting involved matters:

Have a Voice in School Decisions: Share recommendations that reflect your school community's needs and priorities.

Strengthen Home-School Partnerships: Support achievement, attendance, and well-being through communication and collaboration.

Build Connections and Community: Connect families and community members to better support students.

Create Positive Impact: Help plan events, advocate, and support student programs.



IDLF Helps Fight Child Hunger

The DDSB Chew Chew Train is on its way!

Help Us Fight Child Hunger in Durham.

1 in 4 Children in Durham Live in Food Insecure Households.

Too many Durham families are struggling to put food on the table. Last year, the Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) provided over \$80,000 in grocery gift cards and more than \$150,000 in food hampers, yet many children still face hunger daily.

Your support can help ensure no child goes hungry this year and can make a direct difference for students and families across Durham.

How you can help?

- [Donate](#) to our Chew Chew Campaign
- [Host a fundraiser or food drive](#) at your school, workplace, or for your birthday
- Contribute in-kind food items to our Make A Difference Depot

Email: depot@ddsb.ca | Phone: 905-666-6991



DDSB Affinity Networks Advocate for Communities

DDSB Affinity Networks provide welcoming, identity-affirming spaces for staff, promoting equity, inclusion, connection, advocacy, and professional growth across the organization. ★

These networks support a DDSB where students, families, and staff thrive by advocating for marginalized communities, removing systemic barriers, and promoting Indigenous and Human Rights. They foster conversations that challenge bias, honour lived experiences, and build safer spaces for connection and belonging.

DDSB Affinity Networks help build an inclusive community by supporting staff, addressing barriers, and promoting human rights and equity.

Families can reach out to an Affinity Group for connection.

- [Watch as DDSB staff share the benefits of Affinity Networks](#)
- [Contact an Affinity Network for more information](#)

Share Your Voice: Student Achievement Plan

The DDSB's 2026-27 Student Achievement Plan is now available.

The plan outlines how DDSB will support student achievement, well-being, and future readiness through clear priorities, measures of success, and actions.

Students, families, staff, and community members are invited to review the plan and share ideas to strengthen this important work.

Have your say at [Engage DDSB!](#)



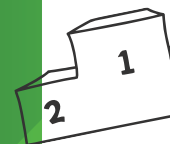
DDSB Students Step onto the World Stage at **FIFA World Cup**

Students from Village Union PS, West Lynde PS, and Cadarackque PS served as player escorts during 2026 FIFA World Cup matches in Toronto.

Across five matches, DDSB students walked onto the world stage with national team players in front of more than 40,000 fans—an unforgettable experience, lifelong highlight, and proud moment for their school communities.

**Thank you to Canada Scores for providing
this opportunity.**

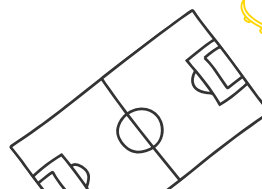
visit [CANADA SCORES](#)



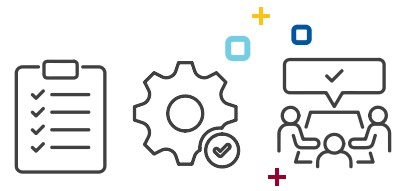
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New for **Secondary School Students**



As the 2026-27 school year begins, DDSB schools are supporting student success while meeting new Ministry of Education requirements and turning provincial priorities into meaningful outcomes for learners.

Growing Success Updates: Attendance, Participation and Exams

Students in Grades 9-12 must complete mandatory written exams in specific courses, with consistent weighting across Ontario. Attendance and participation will also count toward final marks, reinforcing the importance of regular engagement in learning.

[Read the detailed assessment policy](#) which outlines how secondary students will be assessed and graded.

Ontario's new [Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement](#) begins this year. Students who entered Grade 9 in 2025-26 must complete it to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. It will be delivered through Grade 10 Career Studies with TVO-supported resources, and families will receive information from schools during the relevant semester so they know what to expect.

