

September 28, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

Colleen Russell-Rawlins
Director of Education
Toronto District School Board
5050 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M2N 5N8

Dear Director Russell-Rawlins,

The TDSB has announced a policy requiring all employees to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by November 1, 2021. Unlike policies of other employers, the TDSB does not provide alternatives for people who are reluctant to take a vaccine, including frequent testing. This is not a requirement of the direction from the Chief Medical Officer, and it may lead to serious staff shortages when the policy is implemented.

The TDSB has chosen to ignore recommendations for reduced class sizes and increased staff to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in schools. It has accepted that schools can be safe despite the majority of occupants being unvaccinated. It does not require regular testing of students or their parents who access schools. In this context, it is not reasonable to deny employees the choice of regular tests instead of vaccination.

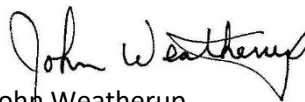
We request that you immediately revise the TDSB policy to provide for the option of regular testing and make appropriate arrangements for employees to continue to work safely.

We look forward to your response,

Sincerely,



Jennifer Brown
President
Elementary Teachers of Toronto



John Weatherup
President
Toronto Education Workers/Local 4400



Michelle Teixeira,
President
OSSTF Toronto Teachers



c: TDSB Trustees