

Madison Z. Written Delegation
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My name is Madison Zacharias. I am a Parkdale Collegiate IB alumna and first year student at the University of Toronto.

During my involvement in the movement against IB fees, I have witnessed shock, outrage, and disappointment. I have spoken to first year IB students no longer able to complete the program, and younger students who have decided against applying at all. The board should be encouraging students to pursue the best academic opportunities, not hindering them.

As demonstrated by the TDSB's own data, this is a program that comprises majority female and non-white students. The decision to impose a financial barrier to participation can be rightly characterized as indirect discrimination against the very groups the TDSB has made its mandate to protect. If equity alone isn't convincing, at least consider consistent messaging.

The IB program is common in private schools, such as Toronto's Upper Canada College and Branksome Hall. Providing the same opportunity to public school students is one step toward leveling the academic playing field. We need to give all students, not merely those of financial privilege, the chance to excel and attend our country's top schools.

Finally, I would like to address the new context created by the pandemic. Families reliant on CERB and/or CESB payments to get by are in no position to pay \$3,000 for a public education. TDSB students and parents need your support now more than ever.

I urge you to continue running the IB Program without cost in the TDSB.