



Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board that school board communication with the government (local, provincial and federal) is an important activity to identify, discuss and find solutions to policy and financial issues.

Responsibility: Director of Education

1. Guiding Principles:

Advocacy is the promotion of public awareness with a view to influencing decision makers and promoting changes to laws and other government policies to advance the mission of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Therefore the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is committed to ensuring that expenditures on advocacy, whether through Board, School Generated or School Council funds:

- Focus on ongoing communications between school boards, education partners and governments through established mechanisms and channels;
- Avoid basing communications on personal or partisan political agendas;
- Maximize resources for student success and achievement.

2. Objectives

Expenditures in this area will comply with existing Board policies and regulations and may include membership fees to appropriate organizations.

3. A statement of intended outcome

The Board will work in partnership with all of its education partners and stakeholders: locally, provincially and federally, to ensure its voice is heard on education matters of importance to those within its boundaries, and in support of the provision of high quality educational services.

4. Action Required

Examples of suitable advocacy expenditures include:

- Membership dues and fees to organizations that meet the policy objectives above.

Examples of inappropriate advocacy expenditures include:

- Placing content intended to advocate for a particular position with report cards and annual reports;
- Using students as vehicles for Board or school advocacy to the public, education partners and governments;
- Use of Board, School Generated or School Council Funds to attend events for specific political parties.

5. Key Measures of Success

Successful and sound business practices are employed that align with the educational goals of the Board and fair business principles.

6. Reference to Any Related Policies

- School Generated Funds Administrative Memo #B-2
- Ministry of Education School Board Expenditures Guidelines (2006: B-15)
- Advertising Expenditures Policy