



Code of Conduct Policy

(reference: PPM 128)

Date Approved: 02/08

Projected Review Date: 02/11

Responsibility: **Superintendent of Safe Schools**
 Members of Executive Council
 School Administrators

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to provide all members of the school community with the right to be safe and to feel safe in their school community by establishing standards of behaviour consistent with the Provincial Code of Conduct. All members of the school community are expected to create a positive school climate in schools and at the school board, in which responsibility, respect, and civility are modelled and promoted.

Guiding Principles / Strategic Direction:

- The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board recognizes that everyone has the right to be safe and to feel safe in their school community.
- The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board recognizes that it is the responsibility of all individuals to contribute to a positive school climate.
- The standards of behaviour which include respect, civility, responsible citizenship, and safety apply to individuals involved in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.
- The Code of Conduct Policy applies to persons on school or Board property, on school buses, at school-related events or activities, or in other circumstances that could have an impact on school climate.
- Relationships founded in mutual acceptance and inclusion foster a culture of respect when modelled by all, as outlined in the Equity Policy of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.
- Principals have a legislated responsibility to maintain proper order and discipline of pupils in the school, and the organization and management of the school (Reg. 298.11 (1a, b)).

Objectives:

The objective of this policy is:

- to ensure that all members of the school community are treated with respect and dignity
- to promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community
- to maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility
- to encourage non-violent means to resolve conflict
- to promote the safety of people in schools
- to discourage the use of alcohol and illicit drugs

Intent of the Policy

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board maintains a safe, caring, and orderly environment through the shared understanding of expectations of standards of behaviour, consistent with the Provincial Code of Conduct. All stakeholders are expected to follow the Code of Conduct as outlined in the policy.

Violations of the Code of Conduct shall be addressed through other relevant Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Policies and provincial legislation.

Action Required

Schools will develop a School Code of Conduct governing the behaviour of all persons in the school, which reflects the board and provincial Codes of Conduct. The Board and School policies are to be reviewed every three years.

All individuals attending on Board or school property, on school buses, or at school-related events or activities, will adhere to the policy.

The Board and/or schools will develop communication strategies that will include but are not limited to:

- developing protocols and partnership agreements to assist with the needs of students;
- posting the Code of Conduct Policy on the Board website; and,
- ensuring that parents, guardians, students and teaching and support staff are aware of the Code of Conduct Policy through school newsletters, student agendas, School Council meetings, Home and School Association meetings, publications, and staff meetings.

Key Measures of Success

The standards of behaviour as set out in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Policy are promoted and modelled consistently by all stakeholders.

Alignment to Other Board Policies and Provincial Legislation includes but is not limited to:

Part XIII of the Education Act

An Act to Amend the Education Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety), 2007

Ontario Regulation 472/07

Access to School Premises – Ontario Regulation 474/00

Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour Policy

Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy

Policy No.7.01 – Suspension of Pupils Policy

Policy No. 7.13 – Expulsion of Students Policy

Information Technology Policy

Use of Personal Electronic Devices Policy (under development)

Trespass Act

Appropriate Dress Policy

OCT Standards of Teaching Practice

Equity Policy

Respectful Working Environments Policy

Harassment Policy

Progressive Discipline Procedures (employees)

Collective Agreements for all employee groups

Purchasing/Procurement Policies

Ontario Human Rights Code

Ontario Criminal Code