



Suspension of Pupils

Date Reviewed: 01/2009

Projected Review Date: 01/2012

Responsibility: Superintendent of Safe Schools
Superintendents of Education
School Principals

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board that suspension of pupils shall be in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Education Act, as amended by the Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety), 2007, its regulations, relevant Policy Program Memoranda and any relevant Board policies.

NOTE: This policy applies only to suspensions under s.306 of the Education Act, as amended; accordingly, this policy does not apply to suspensions under s. 310 of the Education Act, as amended, that are imposed pending the completion of an investigation in relation to a possible expulsion; for suspensions under s. 310 of the Education Act, as amended, please refer to the Board's policy on the Expulsion of Pupils.

Guiding Principles / Strategic Direction:

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board:

- supports appropriate and positive student behaviours to sustain an safe and orderly teaching and learning environment;
- recognizes that progressive discipline is part of the continuum of strategies, including character development, student success initiatives, and early childhood identification;
- 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 promote the safety of people in schools;
- create a supportive learning environment for *all* students with a focus on academic achievement and building healthy relationships;
- to support a positive school climate.

Intent of Policy:

The intent of the policy is to:

- support a safe learning and teaching environment in which every student can reach his or her full potential;
- provide a shared understanding of the expectations of standards of behaviour;
- provide a shared understanding of activities for which a suspension may be issued.

Action Required:

- Principals will adhere to the policy in day to day operations.
- The policy will be posted on the Board website.
- The Board and /or schools will create an awareness of the policy in their communications with parents, guardians, students, teaching and support staff.
- An information pamphlet for parents will be developed in 2008-2009.

Key Measures of Success:

- The Board will establish performance indicators for monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating the effectiveness of this policy.

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
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy
- Policy No. 7.13 – Expulsion of Students Policy
- Information Technology Policy
- Personal Electronic Devices Policy
- Trespass Act
- OCT Standards of Teaching Practice
- Equity Policy
- Respectful Working and Learning Environments Policy
- Harassment Policy
- Progressive Discipline Procedures (employees)
- Collective Agreements for all employee groups
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- Ontario Criminal Code