

Safe & Caring SCHOOLS 6

Gateway for Students on Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
is committed to making each and every
one of its schools a caring place that
is safe for learning.



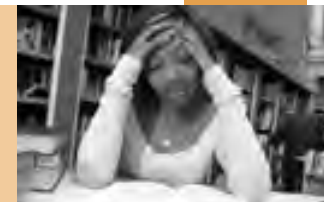


Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| What is the Gateway Program? | 3 |
| Admission to Gateway Program | 3 |
| Program Entry Meeting | 4 |
| Expectations | 4 |
| Behaviour Guidelines | 5 |
| Academic Support | 5 |
| Non-Academic Support | 6 |
| Re-entry into HWDSB School | 6 |
| Questions? | 7 |
| Location | 7 |

Every student deserves to feel and be safe in school, on the school grounds, on the school bus and at school events and activities. At Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), we know safety is essential to good learning. Students learn and teachers teach more successfully when schools are safe. If a student misbehaves, the Principal decides on what steps to take to help the student improve his or her behaviour.

Certain serious misbehaviors may mean a student is suspended or expelled.

What is the Gateway Program?

Gateway is the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) Safe & Caring Schools program for students who are on suspension for 6 to 20 days or who have been expelled from all HWDSB schools. Students are able to continue their education through homework completion and independent study. With the help of our teaching and support staff, students are also given an opportunity to develop long-term positive attitudes and behaviours so that they can achieve success when they return to a school or program in our Board.

Students attend class for three to five hour sessions, five days a week.

Teaching and discussion blocks are held in a small group format along with individual support when required.

Admission to Gateway Program

Students will be offered the Gateway Program under the following conditions:

- Suspension of 6 to 10 days – academic support
- Suspension of 11 to 20 days – academic and non-academic support (social, emotional and behavioural)
- Suspension of 20 days pending an expulsion hearing – academic and non-academic (social, emotional and behavioural support)
- If a student is recommended for expulsion from all HWDSB schools, he or she may continue in the program until all criteria for readmission to schools are met



To enter the program, parents and/or students should contact their school Principal to request a referral to the program. They may also contact the program directly.

The forwarding school will initiate a Student Action Plan outlining academic and non-academic needs of the student. A program entry meeting will then be arranged.

Program Entry Meeting

At the meeting, our staff will:

- Review the academic and non-academic needs of the student
- Make appropriate recommendations complete the Student Action Plan in consultation with the parent and student
- set the criteria for successful completion of the program

Expectations

Behaving appropriately is essential to participating in the Gateway Program. With this commitment, students work with others to create a safe environment in which they can learn, feel valued and take responsibility for their own behaviours.

Staff are here to help you reach your goals.



Behaviour Guidelines

Acceptable Behaviour:

- Attend the program every day
- Arrive on time and be prepared to work
- Listen and respond positively to all adult requests
- Speak positively about others – avoid name calling, swearing, and put-downs

Unacceptable Behaviour:

- Any signs of gang association such as signing, symbols, talk, colours, etc.
- Vandalism to school or other's property
- Theft of school or other's property
- Bullying and any form of violence
- Being rude or disrespectful to staff and peers

Academic Support

Our classrooms are staffed with a qualified teacher and an educational assistant to support the instructional needs of our students. Support is given for the following:

- Homework completion
- English and Math strands aligned with the Ontario Elementary Curriculum Guidelines
- Secondary School Independent Learning Modules aligned with Ontario Curriculum
- Some opportunities for experiential learning are also available



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Non-Academic Support

We have a full-time HWDSB social worker to support students and families, helping them also link to appropriate community agencies when required.

We also have community partnerships to support the following:

- Social, emotional, and behavioural programming
- Anger management
- Goal setting
- Bullying prevention and intervention
- Substance abuse education

Re-entry into HWDSB Schools

Suspension Students:

Students will return to their home school after serving the length of their suspension in the Gateway Program. Program staff will submit a report outlining work completed and recommendations to continue to support the student.

Expulsion Students:

Exiting the program will depend on the student successfully completing the required expectations as established by the Student Action Plan. These expectations will focus on both academic and non-academic criteria necessary for successful re-entry. The process for re-entry will be similar to a suspension return, including a meeting with the receiving school.

Questions?

If you need any further information, please contact:

Principal of Safe School
905-383-5111

Safe Schools Superintendent
905-527-5092 ext. 2323

Location

Our program is presently located at:

Crestwood School

50 Millwood Place, Hamilton, ON L9A 2M8
TEL: 905-383-5111 ext. 362
FAX: 905-383-3372

CCE King William Learning Centre – Goodwill Building

225 King William Street, 3rd Floor
Hamilton, ON L8R 1B1
TEL: 905-526-9337
FAX: 905-526-8993

Please note: *This pamphlet is intended for information purposes. It is not a substitute for legal advice and is subject to all applicable laws and Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board policies.*

Safe & Caring SCHOOLS

Safe and Caring Schools Series

What are Codes of Conduct?

What is Progressive Discipline?

What is Bullying?

What to do if your child
is facing suspension

What to do if your child
is facing expulsion

What is the Gateway Program?



**HAMILTON-
WENTWORTH**
DISTRICT
SCHOOL
BOARD



**Character
Builds**

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