



Environment

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PURPOSE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is committed to promoting and supporting environmental education, environmental action and care of the environment. It is the policy of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to facilitate the implementation of programs and curriculum initiatives to deepen and broaden student learning about the environment. As part of the Board's continuing commitment to implement environmentally responsible practices, understanding of environmental impact will be consistently utilized to inform decision-making.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

HWDSB will support the development of learning about environmental education, environmental action, and care of the environment by:

- Supporting effective environmental education programs that:
 - address sustainability and the underlying causes of environmental stresses which are rooted in personal and social values and in organizational structures;
 - promote changes in personal, behavioural and organizational practices that will minimize our ecological footprint; and
 - foster greater community engagement.
- Engaging students in environmental education programs that expands students' knowledge of the environment, enhances their critical thinking and problem-solving skills and increases their community awareness and the likelihood of initiating proactive involvement.
- Building a shared responsibility for care of the environment amongst students, teachers, leaders, parents/caregivers, and community members.
- Providing access to free fresh water during the school day and at school events, where students would be encouraged to purchase and bring their own refillable water bottle.
- Respecting and caring for the environment to meet the needs of the present and future generations by:
 - ensuring all HWDSB activities and operations meet or exceed applicable legislation and regulations, and
 - achieving a high standard of institutional accountability by implementing best management practices to prevent or reduce environmental impacts.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

The implementation of the Environment Policy together with specific related procedures will:

- Foster student knowledge and awareness of environmental issues and how to care for the environment;
- Support educators in providing students with learning opportunities regarding the environment and care for the environment from kindergarten to grade 12;
- Foster environmental initiatives, in partnership with parents/caregivers and community partners as

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appropriate;

- Enhance environmental stewardship through the promotion of sustainable practices (including capital projects), wherever possible, for:
 - attainable and cost-effective practices;
 - compliance with provincial laws and regulations; and
 - reduction in the environmental footprint of the Board.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Director of Education
Members of Executive Council

TERMINOLOGY:

Ecological footprint: Measures of the impact that human activities have on the environment.

Environmental Education: Environmental education is education about the environment, for the environment, and in the environment that promotes an understanding of, rich and active experience in, and an appreciation for the dynamic interactions of the:

- Earth's physical and biological systems.
- Interdependency of our social and economic systems on these natural systems.
- Scientific and human dimensions of environmental issues.
- Positive and negative consequences, both intended and unintended, of the interactions between human-created and natural systems.

Environment Education and Management Committee: an internal, multi-departmental steering committee supporting the on-going implementation of the policy

Environmental Stewardship: Environmental stewardship or sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

ACTION REQUIRED:

- Develop and implement professional learning for staff;
- Establish an Environmental Education and Management Committee



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PROGRESS INDICATORS:

Intended Outcome	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster student knowledge and awareness of environmental issues and how to care for the environment 	<p>The Environmental Education and Management Committee's annual report summarizes examples of student work and projects related to environmental education.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support educators in providing students with learning opportunities regarding the environment and care for the environment from kindergarten to grade 12 	<p>The Environmental Education and Management Committee's annual report summarizes examples of learning opportunities related to environmental education.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster environmental initiatives, in partnership with parents/caregivers and community partners as appropriate; 	<p>The Environmental Education and Management Committee's annual report summarizes involvement of parents/caregivers, and community groups/partnerships in HWDSB environmental initiatives.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance environmental stewardship through the promotion of sustainable practices, wherever possible, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ attainable and cost-effective practices; ○ compliance with provincial laws and regulations; and ○ reduction in the environmental footprint of the Board. 	<p>The Environmental Education and Management Committee's annual report provides evidence of environmental stewardship including the Environmental Impact Report (formally the Annual Utilities Report). Schools, departments, personnel and parent/community groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of partnerships with local municipal and regional authorities and community organizations to enhance environmental education and action.

REFERENCES:

Government Documents

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: A Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools, September 2009.

Standards for Environmental Education in the Curriculum. 2008

Shaping our Schools, Shaping our Future. June 2007.

Ready, Set Green! Tips, Techniques, and Resources from Ontario Educators. Spring, 2007.

Environmental Education: Scope and Sequence of Expectations (Elementary and Secondary). 2009.

Energy Efficiency Act: General – O. Reg. 38/06

Environmental Protection Act



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Waste Management Act

HWDSB Policies

21st Century Learning