

Policy Committee

January 16, 2025



Policy Committee Workplan

Policy Committee Meeting Date	Policies
January 16, 2025	Volunteer Policy, Code of Conduct, Medical Health Supports (Discussion)
February 6, 2025	Barrier-Free Learning Environments Property Disposition,
March 6, 2025	Transportation, Medical Health Supports
April 10, 2025	Barrier-Free Learning Environments, Engagement

Volunteer Policy

January 16, 2025



Volunteer Policy

- Last updated in 2020; largely procedural in nature.
- Approach to this policy:
 - Multi-Year Strategic Plan:
 - ***Collaborating with Students, Families & Communities***
 - We will build reciprocal relationships and partnerships to enhance access and engagement for students, families, and communities.
 - Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool,
 - HWDSB Human Rights Policy.
- Feedback gathered from Parent Involvement Committee

Proposed Policy Changes

- **Purpose:**

- HWDSB recognizes values, supports and expects the involvement of school volunteers to enhance all aspects of school life for the benefit of students.

- **Guiding Principles:**

- Recognizing that volunteers from a diversity of lived experiences can enrich the school community and student experience.

- **Intended Outcomes**

- Encourage and welcome parents, guardians and caregivers to participate in volunteer activities in our schools to support programs and services and help students succeed.

Action Required

- Maintain a **Volunteer Procedure** that is accessible to the HWDSB community and communicated annually to community. The procedure will establish and maintain:
 - A clear process for the recruitment and selection of volunteers,
 - Necessary training and/or orientation for our volunteers, including our Human Rights and Equity policy, relevant information from the Freedom of Information Act, other Board policies, procedures and provincial legislation,
 - An outline about/information on how volunteers will be celebrated and recognized for their contributions to the HWDSB community.

Code of Conduct

January 16, 2025



Code of Conduct Policy

- Last updated in 2018; largely procedural in nature.
- Approach to this policy:
 - Multi-Year Strategic Plan.
 - Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool.
 - HWDSB Human Rights Policy.
- Detailed consultation process aligned to PPM 128: April 2024
- To be reviewed every 3-years (PPM 128)

Policy Consultation

- Public Consultation – HWDSB Engage
- Feedback from community organizations
- Student affinity groups
- SEAC
- PIC
- Human Rights and Equity Advisory
- Human Rights and Equity Committee
- Indigenous Education Department
- Safe School Advisory

Updated PPM 128: *Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct to restrict cellphones and vapes in schools*

Ministry Direction	HWDSB Policies and Procedures
<p>School boards will be required to develop local policies on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enforcing restrictions on student use of personal mobile devices at school.• Handling surrendered prohibited items (such as tobacco, electronic cigarettes, nicotine products, alcohol and illegal drugs, as well as personal mobile devices), in compliance with all applicable provincial policy and legislation, including the <i>Education Act</i> and the <i>Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017</i>.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Code of Conduct Policy **<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Code of Conduct Procedure• Modern Learning Policy<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible Use of Digital Technology Procedure• Student Behaviour and Discipline Policy<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour Procedure

HWDSB Code of Conduct: Introduction

- Purpose:** Establish a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all.
- Alignment:** Reflects HWDSB's commitment to the strategic directions outlined in the MYSP.
- Applicability:** Sets standards for all students, staff, families, and community members across all HWDSB learning and workspaces.

Key Updates in HWDSB's Code of Conduct

1. Enhanced Focus on Equity and Inclusion

- Current: Emphasizes respect and dignity.
- Updated: Integrates anti-racism, anti-oppression, and Indigenous reconciliation principles.

2. Integration of Restorative Practices

- Current Code: Non-violent conflict resolution.
- Updated Code: Focuses on repairing harm and restoring relationships.

3. Clear Guidelines on Digital Conduct

- Current Code: Lacks specific guidelines.
- Updated Code: Defines expectations for respectful digital interactions.

4. Emphasis on Student Voice and Identity

- Current Code: Encourages participation.
- Updated Code: Centers identity and lived experiences in learning.

5. Updated Provisions on Substance Use

- Current Code: General prohibitions.
- Updated Code: Includes vaping and cannabis, reflecting legislative changes.

Upholding Human Rights, Safety & Well-Being

Key Updates:

- Emphasizes fostering inclusive, caring school climates.
- Integrates principles of equity, anti-oppression, and reconciliation.
- Supports diverse identities, experiences, and perspectives.

Providing Equitable Quality Education

Key Updates:

- Focus on prevention and early intervention for inappropriate behaviours.
- Incorporates restorative practices to resolve conflicts constructively.
- Defines clear expectations for maintaining a positive school climate.

Collaborating with Students, Families & Communities

Key Updates:

- Recognizes and celebrates students' identities as integral to learning.
- Strengthens anti-bullying measures to affirm student voice and identity.
- Enhances respectful digital and physical interactions.

Action Required

Update ensuing procedures to action Code of Conduct:

- Key areas of focus - Action Items and Progress Indicators.

Medical Supports Policy (Discussion)

January 16, 2025



Medical Supports Policy

- Approved by the Policy Committee on November 7, 2024
- **PPM 161:** Supporting children and students with prevalent medical conditions (anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and/or epilepsy) in schools.
- **Specific policy language:** All school board policies on supporting students with prevalent medical conditions are expected to contain, at a minimum, the following components.
- Consultation Process; return March 6, 2025