

SAFE, SECURE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS

POLICY

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1.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 Guidelines, policies and procedures, regarding safe, secure and healthy schools will be clear, fair, supportive, consistently used and reasonably applied.
- 1.2 It is the right of all students and staff to learn, teach, work and interact in a safe, secure and healthy environment, free from any form of violence, intimidation, threat, abuse, mistreatment or confirmed environmental issue.
- 1.3 The Policy of the Halifax Regional School Board will conform in all respects to the Education Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act and all other Acts and Regulations respecting safe, secure and healthy schools within the province of Nova Scotia.
- 1.4 The Board will ensure that facilities, equipment, grounds and buses are maintained to the highest reasonable standard.
- 1.5 The Board is committed to supporting each school's efforts to create and sustain a safe, secure and healthy environment for learning and teaching.
- 1.6 Notwithstanding the responsibility of the Board and Staff, it is expected that parents, guardians and students will share responsibility for creating schools that are safe, secure and healthy environments for learning and teaching.

2.0 SAFE SCHOOLS

- 2.1 Every reasonable effort will be made to protect staff and students from intimidation of any kind, inappropriate social pressure, physical violence or threat.
- 2.2 Schools will ensure proper collection, tracking and reporting of student data pertaining to incidents of violence, physical threat, acts of racism or sexual misconduct.

- 2.3 Schools will develop a School Code of Behaviour/Conduct consistent with the Provincial Discipline Policy established by the Minister. It will reflect a proactive and sustained approach toward student discipline. Number and duration of suspensions will be reported monthly.
- 2.4 Students and staff will learn and practice methods to resolve conflict in a peaceful and respectful manner.
- 2.5 In consultation with the School Advisory Council, the principal will establish a School Discipline Committee.
- 2.6 The principal will, when appropriate, use community resources to support the provision of a safe school environment.
- 2.7 Each school will prepare, maintain and communicate, to the appropriate supervisory staff of the Board, an emergency response plan.

3.0 SECURE SCHOOLS

- 3.1 Principals will monitor the school grounds and building with respect to security. Concerns will be reported to the appropriate supervisory staff of the Board and the School Advisory Council.
- 3.2 Principals will make every reasonable effort to create and maintain a supportive relationship with appropriate community agencies, for the purpose of addressing student needs relating to secure learning environments.

4.0 HEALTHY SCHOOLS

- 4.1 It is the expectation of the Board that schools will be healthy and clean environments in which to learn and work.
- 4.2 All Board employees share responsibility for the health and safety of fellow employees and students to the extent of each party's authority and ability to do so.
- 4.3 Where in the opinion of the Operations Department it is necessary to expend funds to correct healthy school issues, expenditures will be limited to \$50,000 pending authority and additional funding from the Department of Education.
- 4.4 Where it is necessary to close a school or part of a school for the purpose of major renovations or repairs, the Board will develop a contingency plan which may include relocation of students and staff. Stakeholders will be notified and when possible a process of consultation will take place.

5.0 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The Board will develop and implement appropriate in-service and training programs for all staff categories in support of the policy on safe, secure and healthy schools.
- 5.2 The Board will provide in-service and training opportunities for school leadership staff in the areas of prosocial curricula and the identification, de-escalation and resolution of conflict.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.1 The Board will establish and maintain a broad-based Safe Schools Advisory Committee for the following purposes:
- 6.1.1 to review the policy and procedures of the Board respecting safe, secure and healthy schools and to make recommendation for changes,
 - 6.1.2 to support the Board's effort to communicate publicly on the issues of safe, secure and healthy schools,
 - 6.1.3 to review general concerns forwarded from schools or the Board in relation to safe, secure and healthy schools,
 - 6.1.4 to review available school data in respect to safety, security and health issues.
 - 6.1.5 To provide a link between the Halifax Regional School Board, the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Province on issues of safety, security and health that may impact on schools.
- 6.2 The Superintendent will prepare an annual report on the issue of safe, secure and healthy schools.

7.0 AUTHORIZATION

The Superintendent is authorized to develop and issue procedures in support of this policy.