

<b>POLICY 1.5 STUDENT AND PARENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES</b>	Adopted: 1994-02-14
	Reviewed: 2008-05-15
	Revised: 1994-02-14, 1998-02-11, 1998-04-16, 1998-05-2, 2008-05-15, 2010-05-27, 2010-11-08

The Board directs that services be provided to students and parents in support of all students' education and personal growth and development. Students and parents have rights to protect their privacy, ensure fair treatment and due process, and guarantee access.

<b>REGULATION 1.5.1-R STUDENT AND PARENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES</b>	Adopted: 1994-04-11
	Reviewed: 2008-05-15
	Revised: 1994-02-14, 1998-02-11, 1998-04-16, 1998-05-26, 2008-05-15, 2010-05-27, 2010-11-08

1. Learning resources (books, film, etc.) will be available to students. Selection of these materials will be made, using a consultative process, by professional staff designated by each school. Students and parents have the right to challenge the appropriateness of any material. The learning resources selection will comply with the Ministry of Education's prescriptions for learning resource material.
2. Counselling service will be available to all students. This counselling may include educational, career, and personal counseling. All counselors will be qualified in counseling in according to standards as identified by the Superintendent of Schools. Each school will have a counseling service access procedure.
3. Potentially contentious issues, whether arising from classroom teaching, extra-curricular activities, counseling or other services, or social events, will be given a balanced treatment allowing all major points of view to be expressed and examined. Except where required by provincial directions (e.g. mandated curriculum) any student has the right to exclude herself/himself from voluntary participation.
4. School records will be maintained according to law. Students and parents have the right of access and right of privacy set out in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Staff will maintain the record system in conformity with this Act. The District, along with each school, will have a procedure explaining to students and parents their rights and how to use them.
5. No student will be denied access to programs or services of the school because of financial need. The District, along with each school, will have appropriate procedures for parents or students to apply for financial aid or be eligible for financial help. Each school must have a written financial hardship procedure. Parents and students must be informed of this at least annually.
6. Parents have the right of access to schools and district staff. Schools will develop procedures that encourage such access and parent/staff discussion, without undue disruption to the school. In cases of disputed custody, or of guardianship, the access right will be consistent with court or child welfare rulings. In the absence of such rulings, access right will be given to all natural parents and guardians.
7. Schools have a statutory duty to protect students from child abuse. All staff are required to report any suspected child abuse, whether the abuse is committed by school staff or by someone outside the school, and whether the abuse is physical, sexual or psychological. The District, along with each school, will develop a procedure to be used in such circumstances which will conform with the Ministry of Education directives.

Staff will exercise this reporting with sensitive judgment, keeping in mind that failure to report is illegal. School staff will investigate any complaint expeditiously, holding student protection highest in priority. Nevertheless, staff will ensure privacy to all involved until the matter is reported to external agencies. Each school will offer a child abuse prevention program, approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

8. All schools will provide such services, including counseling, as are appropriate to deal with a crisis situation in the schools.
9. All students have equal rights regardless of race, colour, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or special needs.
10. When the Board provides transportation, it will be safe, efficient and reliable transportation. Detailed transportation procedures and rules will be available at all schools.