



Revisions to Policy P087, Concussions Based on Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum 158

To: Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date: 29 January, 2020

Report No.: 01-20-3831

Strategic Directions

- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

Recommendation

It is recommended that the revised Concussions Policy (P087), as presented in this report, be approved.

Context

The Toronto District School Board was one of the first school boards to develop a Concussions Policy (P087). These documents were developed in consultation with a variety of stakeholders resulting in a comprehensive protocol for concussion awareness and management.

On September 25, 2019, the Ministry of Education issued the updated Policy/Program Memoranda (PPM) 158 – School Board Policies on Concussions (Appendix A). The updated PPM158 directed school boards to develop, implement, and maintain a policy that supports concussion awareness, prevention, identification, management, tracking, and training within schools. The existing TDSB Concussion Policy (P087) currently addresses the majority of the directions mandated in the updated PPM 158 however to ensure full compliance staff made minor revisions to this Policy.

The following updates were made to the Policy:

- updated the definition of concussions to align with the PPM;

- explicitly require parents/guardians to provide written, informed, consent for their child to participate in a high risk activity;
- integrated Concussion Codes of Conduct for individuals participating in board-sponsored inter-school sports, and the receipt of confirmation of annual review of the relevant Code of Conduct by those individuals;
- clarified the commitment to annual concussion training for relevant school staff; and
- editing and formatting for ease of access to the information.

Staff are also recommending to waive the public consultations phase in accordance with section 6.26 of the Board's Policy Development and Management governance procedure (PR501).

- Consultations are not required for policies mandated by the Ministry of Education (i.e., policies that are developed or revised following formal directions from the Minister of Education or his/her designate), unless the TDSB policy significantly exceeds or deviates from the requirements set out by the Ministry of Education. Notification about the Ministry of Education mandated policies will be provided to all Advisory Committees of the Board and to the public through the Board's website.

The changes above are not extensive and the content of the policy remains largely intact. The changes are as a result of a ministry requirement rather than a Board initiated direction.

The revised Policy is aligned with the Board's Equity Policy (P037) and Student Health Support Policy (P092). It operates within the legislative environment which governs student health support services in school settings, including but not limited to the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Good Samaritan Act*, *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*, *Rowan's Law (Concussions)*, *Ontario Human Rights Code*, and collective agreements.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Subject to the Committee of the Whole's directions, the revised Concussions Policy will be presented to the Board of Trustees on February 5, 2020 for consideration and final approval.

Once approved by the Board, the revised Policy will come into effect immediately. Staff will make appropriate revisions to the operational procedure PR712, Concussions, which supports implementation of the Policy.

Resource Implications

Staff will assess the cost associated with implementation of the revised Policy.

Communications Considerations

System-wide communication to all stakeholders, including staff, students and parents, will be implemented following approval of the revised Policy.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Policies:

- Equity Policy (P037)
- Student Health Support Policy (P092)

Procedures:

- Concussions (PR712)
- Excursions (PR511)

Legislative Acts and Regulations:

- *Education Act*
- *Good Samaritan Act*
- *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*
- *Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC)*
- *Rowan's Law (Concussion)*

Other Documents:

- PPM 158: School Board Policies on Concussions
- OPHEA - Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education

Appendices

- Appendix A: Policy/Program Memoranda (PPM) 158 – School Board Policies on Concussions
- Appendix B: Revised Concussions Policy - Tracked Changes
- Appendix C: Revised Concussions Policy – Clean

From

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