



Niagara Catholic District School Board  
**SAFE AND ACCEPTING SCHOOLS POLICY**  
STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6

Adopted Date: June 26, 2001

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: January 30, 2024

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board is committed to fostering caring, safe, equitable, inclusive and accepting learning and teaching environments for all students, staff, parents/guardians and community members involved in Board and school programs, events and activities. A whole school approach to creating a positive environment for learning and working requires a shared commitment amongst all stakeholders in a school. To maintain and improve student success and achievement, we must ensure that students continue to feel safe, nurtured, welcomed, respected and included.

This shall be achieved by establishing and maintaining high expectations for behaviour, while offering programs that emphasize early, ongoing, and proactive practices and supports. Appropriate programs and supports include, but are not limited to:

- promoting healthy relationships and well-being,
- inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments,
- mentorship programs,
- equity and inclusive education,
- culturally responsive pedagogy,
- student leadership,
- bullying prevention and intervention,
- conflict prevention and intervention,
- restorative mindset and practices,
- character development and education,
- counselling, and
- the inclusion of social emotional learning in the curriculum

The Niagara Catholic District School Board has established Governance Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures linked to this Safe and Accepting Schools Policy, which foster increased respect, responsibility and civility in compliance with current legislation. The Board will provide professional development for staff to support prevention of inappropriate student behavior and strategies for promoting positive school climate.

Therefore, the Niagara Catholic Safe and Accepting Schools Policy and Administrative Operational Procedures will:

- create schools that are caring, safe, inclusive and accepting of all students, staff, parents/guardians; and members of the school community by implementing Board Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures;
- provide students with a caring, safe, inclusive and accepting learning and teaching environment;
- promote a positive school climate in all schools and prevent inappropriate behaviour, including but not limited to, bullying, discrimination, harassment, violence and sexual assault;
- endeavour to be responsive to the diversity, cultural and individualized needs of students;
- address, report, and respond to inappropriate student behaviour in accordance with Board Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures and promote early prevention, intervention and supports;
- provide support to students who are impacted by the inappropriate behaviour of other students; and

- establish progressive disciplinary approaches that promote positive behaviour with measures that include appropriate consequences and supports for students to address inappropriate behaviour.

The Director of Education will ensure the implementation of Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures linked to the Safe and Accepting Schools Policy.

### **References**

- [\*Ephesians 5:21 “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.”\*](#)
- [\*Accepting Schools Act\*](#)
- [\*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005\*](#)
- [\*Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario\*](#)
- [\*Child & Family Services Review Board\*](#)
- [\*Child, Youth and Family Services Act 2017\*](#)
- [\*Education Act and Regulations\*](#)
- [\*Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Human Rights Code\*](#)
- [\*Policy/Program Memorandum 120: Reporting Violent Incidents to the Ministry of Education\*](#)
- [\*Policy/Program Memorandum 128: The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct-Issued October 17, 2018\*](#)
- [\*Policy/Program Memorandum 144: Bullying Prevention and Intervention-Issued October 17, 2018\*](#)
- [\*Policy/Program Memorandum 145: Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour –Issued October 17, 2018\*](#)
- [\*Provincial Code of Conduct\*](#)
- [\*Regulation 472/07: Behaviour, Discipline and Safety of Pupils\*](#)
- [\*Smoke-Free Ontario Act 2017\*](#)
- [\*Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures and Documents\*](#)
  - [\*Access to Board Premises \(302.6.3\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Accessibility Standards Policy \(800.8\)\*](#)
  - [\*Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy \(302.6.8\)\*](#)
  - [\*Catholic School Councils \(800.1\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Code of Conduct Policy \(302.6.2\)\*](#)
  - [\*Complaint Resolution Policy \(800.3\)\*](#)
  - [\*Criminal Background Check \(302.6.7\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Dress Code – Secondary Uniform Policy \(302.6.6\)\*](#)
  - [\*Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy \(302.6.10\)\*](#)
  - [\*Electronic Communications System \(Students\) \(301.5\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Equity and Inclusive Education Policy \(100.10\)\*](#)
  - [\*Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy \(800.7\)\*](#)
  - [\*Ontario Student Record \(301.7\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Opening or Closing Exercises \(302.6.1\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Progressive Student Discipline \(302.6.9\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Privacy Policy \(600.6\)\*](#)
  - [\*Records and Information Management Policy \(600.2\)\*](#)
  - [\*Safe Physical Intervention with Students \(301.8\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Student Suspension \(302.6.4\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Student Expulsion Policy \(302.6.5\)\*](#)
  - [\*Student Transportation Policy \(500.2\)\*](#)
  - [\*Volunteering in Catholic Schools \(800.9\) AOP\*](#)
  - [\*Pope Francis Centre Alternative Learning Manual: Niagara Catholic Fresh Start Program\*](#)
  - [\*Protocol between the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Niagara Catholic District School Board\*](#)

- [\*Protocol between Niagara Catholic District School Board and Family and Children's Services Niagara\*](#)

<b>Adopted Date:</b>	<b>June 26, 2001</b>
<b>Revision History:</b>	<b>May 28, 2002 February 1, 2008 June 17, 2008 February 26, 2013 May 28, 2019 January 30, 2024</b>