

DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
"The Board"

POLICY

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS

POLICY AREA: **GOVERNANCE**
POLICY #: **PO211**

INTRODUCTION

The Board recognizes the importance of parental engagement in the education of their children. In keeping with Catholic teaching, we affirm that parents are the primary educators of their children and we welcome their participation as active members of Catholic School Councils.

The "purpose of school councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. A school councils' primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations in accordance with this Regulation to the principal of the school and the board that established a council." O. Reg. 612//00 s. 2.

DEFINITIONS

1. A **Catholic School Council** refers to the body of duly elected members as defined in O. Reg. 612/00 who, in their advisory role, assist the principals in managing and setting priorities for the school.
2. A **Separate School Supporter** as defined by the Education Act "means an English-language Roman Catholic board supporter or a French-language separate district school board supporter."

PURPOSE

To provide a framework that gives direction, assistance and support to Principals, administrative staff and school communities for the establishment, operation and success of Catholic School Councils.

APPLICATION/SCOPE

This policy applies to all schools within the Durham Catholic District School Board and to the constituent members of the respective Catholic School Councils.

PRINCIPLES

The Board believes that:

- Catholic schools have their origin in the fundamental partnership of parish, home and school;
- Catholic schools have the purpose of developing students who will contribute positively to the Catholic church as well as to the society in which they will be citizens;
- parents as the primary educators of their children, have the right and the responsibility to actively participate in the education of their children;
- the parish, home and school community welcome the child into the sacramental life of the Catholic church and together nourish the faith life of the child;
- it has a responsibility to espouse a commitment to excellence through the active partnership of parish, home and school in order to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of each child;

PRINCIPLES

Each school within the Durham Catholic District School Board shall:

- establish, maintain and operate a Catholic School Council consistent with all Board policies, administrative procedures and the attendant legislative requirements;
- shall adhere to a membership structure and term of office for their Catholic School Council, as defined within the attendant Administrative Procedure – Catholic School Councils (AP315).

SOURCES

1. *Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 – Section 170 (1) 17.1, Section 170 (3)*
2. *School Councils – O. Reg. 612/00*
3. *Operation of Schools General – O. Reg. 298*
4. *Fund Raising Policy (PO148)*
5. *Ministry of Education and Training, The School Council Handbook*
6. *Education Improvement Commission, School Improvement Planning, A Handbook*

RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Catholic School Councils (AP211-1)