

4555 Safety of Students (Including Higher Risk Activities)

Policy 4555

STATUS: ADOPTED

Safety of Students (Including Higher Risk Activities)

Board Approved: February 13, 2008

Last Revised: January 2008, June 22, 2016

Description:

The Board of Education believes that the safety and well being of students is of paramount consideration in planning student activities. The Board of Education recognizes that there are inherent risks in some activities involving students. While the Board does not wish to unduly limit the nature of the activities conducted or supervised by its teaching staff, it is essential that all teachers be cognizant of the risks inherent in each planned student-related activity. Teachers must exercise “safety first” professional judgment with regard to the activities which may be appropriately and safely conducted in each learning and teaching situation where students are under the care and supervision of staff.

The Board believes that schools must work with parents, keeping them fully informed of the risks when proposed activities increase the possibility of injury. Further, that students must receive the training required to recognize and respond to the risks associated with a new activity. In addition, that the prevention of injury is achieved through the use of appropriate safety equipment, combined with the close supervision of activities and sound risk management strategies.

The Board recommends that activities be curricular in nature with appropriate learning intentions and assessment strategies inherent in the activity.

Safety of Students (Including Higher Risk Activities)

Board Approve: February 13, 2008

Last Revised: June 19, 2013, June 22, 2016

Description:

The Board of Education requires that when schools sanction any activity which may increase the risk(s) to student safety, the following must occur:

1. Teachers are not to conduct high risk activities in any situation which does not allow for sufficient supervision or where trained personnel are not providing instruction and supervision. Factors which are to be considered in assessing whether an activity is of a hazardous nature include:
 - materials, equipment or other resources to be used;
 - the environment in which students will be working;
 - special skills or qualifications needed by supervisors and or students;
 - the physical speed and complexity of the planned activity;
 - the type and degree of supervision required.
2. In planning for any activity or teaching situation, teachers who have reasonable cause to believe that the situation may pose uncommon risks, they shall refer the matter to their Principal for a decision.
3. Teachers are to exercise “safety first” professional judgment and due diligence at all times in conducting any activities involving students. Consent forms and/or Waivers must be on file for high risk activities.
4. In any emergent situation, teachers are to use their best professional judgment in determining whether an activity can be safely conducted. Teachers shall report the circumstances to the principal at the earliest opportunity. Where a situation does not require an immediate decision by the teacher, the matter is to be referred to the principal for a decision.
5. Teachers have provided the principal with a waiver and/or consent of the parent/guardian for the student to participate in the proposed activity:
 - If the activity is part of the curriculum (has identified learning outcomes and assessment strategies) a consent is required which clearly identifies any risks
 - If the activity is not part of the curriculum and is high risk, a waiver and consent is required which clearly identifies any risks
6. the principal has ensured that parents are completely informed of the risks associated with the activity;

7. the Field Trip approval process is applied where appropriate;

8. CSA approved helmets are worn for:
 - alpine skiing, (required September, 2008)
 - snowboarding, (required September, 2008)
 - tobogganing,
 - snowmobiling,
 - skateboarding,
 - climbing wall activity,
 - cycling,
 - hockey, ringette, broomball, etc

This regulation will apply to school sanctioned events beyond those listed here, to include events where students are exposed to high speeds, and/or the activity may lead to falls or uncontrolled movement, and/or students are exposed to moving equipment.