



POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
Report No 24-120

12 DECEMBER 2024

**RESCISSION OF POLICY P.042.SCO GUIDELINES FOR DEALING
WITH REPORTS OF STRANGERS APPROACHING STUDENTS**

**Key Contact: AJ Keene, Superintendent of Education,
613-596-8211 ext. 8391**

PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval for the rescission of Policy P.042.SCO, Guidelines for Dealing with Reports of Strangers Approaching Students.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

2. The proposed rescission is consistent with the Board's policy review and development process and supports a commitment to effective governance. This aligns with the Learning, Well-being, and Social Responsibility pillars under the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

CONTEXT:

3. An effective policy review cycle should consider whether a policy can or should be rescinded because it is no longer relevant, required, or could be combined with another related policy. In this case, staff are recommending the policy is rescinded on the basis that the content is no longer relevant as the program the policy provides guidance for no longer exists. Policy P.042.SCO is no longer relevant as other policies and procedures have been introduced/revised since its inception that better address the goals of the policy.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. Development of Policy P.042.SCO
Policy P.042.SCO was introduced in May of 1998 and has not been revised since. The policy was introduced to establish principles and directives for schools to provide a safe environment and to respond when a child is approached by a stranger.

5. Risk Analysis of Policy Rescission

In assessing the potential consequences or risks associated with the rescission of any Board policy, staff would normally outline the mitigation measures in place to support the rationale that the policy is no longer relevant. In this case, there are many other measures and guidelines in place to ensure the safety of students and management of strangers in schools. These measures and guidelines live in other policies and procedures, and are also reflected in changes to societal norms and practice (e.g. supervision procedures, physical safeguards in schools, easier means to communicate or report strangers to schools, police and community). As such, there is no risk associated with the rescission.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6. There are no resource implications related to the rescission of this policy.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

7. There are no communication / consultation issues relating to the rescission of this policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Policy P.042.SCO, Guidelines for Dealing with Reports of Strangers Approaching Students be rescinded.

AJ Keene,
Superintendent Education

Pino Buffone,
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

Appendix A: Policy P.042.SCO, Guidelines for Dealing with Reports of Strangers Approaching Students