

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Report 19-094**

1 OCTOBER 2019

**AMENDMENT TO POLICY P.125.SCO SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF
CONDUCT**

**Key Contact: Mary Jane Farrish, Superintendent of Instruction, ext.
8821**

PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval of an amendment to policy P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct in compliance with the Ministry's revised *Policy and Program Memorandum 128 the Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct*.

CONTEXT:

2. The Ministry of Education has directed school districts to review their codes of conduct to ensure compliance with the new expectations of the provincial code of conduct ([Appendix A](#)) pertaining to the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices during instructional time. This new requirement will come into effect on 04 November 2019.

Staff has incorporated the required amendment in the policy (Attached as Appendix B). A more comprehensive review of the School District Code of Conduct along with relevant safe schools policies will be undertaken this school year with a consultation plan anticipated to be presented to Committee of the Whole at its 05 November meeting.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

3. Ministry Directives
The revision to the Ministry of Education's Provincial Code of Conduct (PPM 128), coming into effect November 4, 2019, includes restrictions on use of personal mobile devices during instructional time. Specifically, the revised PPM 128 directs Districts to include the following content in their codes of conduct:

The use of personal mobile devices (used to access the internet such as cell phone, tablet) during instructional time is permitted under the following circumstances:

- for educational purposes, as directed by an educator (teachers and early childhood educators)
 - for health and medical purposes
 - to support special education needs
4. OCDSB Policy P.100.IT Appropriate Use of Technology
Policy P.100.IT and Procedure PR.622.IT Appropriate Use of Technology set parameters for the responsible use of technology. Current practices in schools are closely aligned with the Ministry of Education direction outlining the required conditions regarding the use of personal mobile devices during instructional time. The OCDSB does provide accommodation for medical, health, and special education needs inclusive of assistive technologies accessed on both Board and personal mobile devices. The OCDSB's Appropriate Use of Technology Policy P. 100.IT and Procedure PR. 622.IT will also be reviewed for necessary amendments to align with the direction from the revised PPM 128, relevant to the use of personal mobile devices during instructional time.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5. The amendment to the current School District Code of Conduct policy as well as the review the Appropriate Use of Technology procedure and policy can be achieved with current resource allocation within central departments.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

6. School leaders will be informed of the new inclusion in the School District Code of Conduct and any revisions to the Appropriate Use of Technology procedure and policy and will communicate with their staff and communities to confirm and clarify parameters around the use of mobile devices during instructional time.

Formal consultation planning will commence when the full review of the School District Code of Conduct policy, Safe Schools policy, and related policies and procedures begins this school year.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

7. Completing the required amendment to the School District Code of Conduct achieves compliance with PPM 128 and supports achievement of the goals within the Culture of Innovation and Caring Strategic Plan areas.

Culture of Innovation Goals: Champion high learning expectations for all students in all programs; Modernize instruction and administrative processes.

Culture of Caring Goal: Prioritizing the dignity and well-being of students in inclusive and caring classrooms.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve an amendment to Policy P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix B to Report 19-094.

Mary Jane Farrish
Superintendent of Instruction

Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education

APPENDICES

Appendix A - *Policy and Program Memorandum 128 the Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct.*

Appendix B - P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct