



BOARD

Report 20-048

22 June 2020

MINOR REVISION TO POLICY P.137.SCO CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

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PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval of the proposed minor revision to Policy P.137.SCO Concussion Management in alignment with PPM 158 School Board Policies on Concussion.

CONTEXT:

2. On 28 January 2020, the Board approved a number of revisions to Policy P.137.SCO Concussion Management to ensure its alignment with the recently released PPM 158 School Board Policies on Concussion (Appendix A).

The District has been working to implement the revised concussion policy, including the preparation of a procedure for both the elementary and secondary levels to support the implementation of the newly mandated requirements. Amidst this work, staff received legal advice pertaining to one of the requirements of the revised PPM 158 related to the codes of conduct, which necessitated a minor revision to the policy.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

3. Requirements of PPM 158
On 2019 Rowan's Law Day, the Ministry issued an update to PPM 158 to strengthen concussion safety which mandated the following requirements:
 - a. The confirmation of annual review of approved concussion awareness resources by individuals participating in Board-sponsored interschool sports;
 - b. The establishment and confirmation of annual review of concussion code of conduct for individuals participating in Board-sponsored interschool sports;
 - c. Annual concussion training for relevant school staff;
 - d. The establishment of an updated process for the removal of students with a suspected concussion from physical activity and, for those diagnosed with a concussion, a Return to School Plan, which includes their return to learning and to physical activity; and

- e. The establishment of a process to document and track a student's progress from the removal from an activity due to a suspected concussion to the return, through graduated steps, to learning and to physical activity.

4. Concussion Codes of Conduct

The above-listed requirements were embedded in the recently revised and approved P.137.SCO Concussion Management. This includes requiring participants in interschool Board-sponsored sports to confirm their review of concussion codes of conduct (Requirement b).

The District has made a decision to adopt OPHEA's (Ontario Physical and Health Education Association) concussion materials including their codes of conduct. Initially, staff plan to embed codes of conduct expectations in the responsibilities section of the procedure. The District received legal advice recommending that the concussion codes of conduct be maintained as stand-alone resources due to their significance. The minor revision to the policy, attached as Appendix B to this report, addresses this recommendation.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5. There are no resource implications associated with this minor policy revision.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

6. The requirements of PPM158 with regards to concussion awareness, prevention, and management are complex. Working with the communications team, messages to staff, students, and families will be carefully considered to ensure they are clear, concise, and supportive of the safety and well-being of all students.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

7. Clarifying our expectations of different stakeholders, particularly when expectations concern the safety and well-being of all students, aligns with our Social Responsibility pillar of the Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the proposed revisions to P.137.SCO Concussion Management, attached as Appendix B to Report 20-048, be approved.

Nadia Towaj
Superintendent of Instruction

Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#) - PPM 158 School Board Policies on Concussion

[Appendix B](#) - Updated Policy P.137.SCO Concussion Management