



## MEMORANDUM

**Memo No. 21-038**

TO: Trustees  
Student Trustees

FROM: Mary Jane Farrish, Superintendent of Instruction  
Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education

DATE: 26 March 2021

RE: **Distribution of Revised Safe School Policies: Phase 2 Consultation activities**

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This memo accompanies copies of the revised Safe Schools policies for distribution to trustees. In addition, this memo communicates our updated actions for Phase II of Safe Schools policy consultations.

The revised policies, specifically School District Code of Conduct and Safe Schools (now divided into 2 policies) present a clearer delineation between the multiple policies within the safe schools area and improve coherence with the related Board procedures. We have worked to achieve clarity in the guiding principles in each of the revised policies and specific direction for execution through the related procedures.

Stakeholder feedback through Phase I of the consultation process has been incorporated in the revised policies and reflect community interest. With a goal of narrowing the objectives of our safe schools policies and making the contents easier to access for all, the current safe schools policy was divided into two main component areas 1) Managing Student Behaviour and 2) Emergency Preparedness and Response. In addition, six safe schools related policies were amalgamated into the two Safe Schools policies and the School District Code of Conduct.

### **Changes:**

#### P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct (Appendix A)

The following policies, bulleted below, have been amalgamated into the School District Code of Conduct. Both the Substance Abuse and Smoking and Vaping on Board Premises policies set conditions for safe schools and therefore they are merged with the School District Code of Conduct. In terms of Student Dress Code, feedback from stakeholders communicated the desire to craft the associated language in a positive way that focuses on respect and dignity for students and the School District Code of Conduct sets expectations to support a positive and respectful learning environment for students.

- P.034.SCO Substance Abuse;
- P.033.SCO - Smoking and Vaping on Board Premises; and
- P.104.SCO - Student Dress Code.

#### P.032.SCO Safe Schools (Managing Student Behaviour) (Appendix B)

Managing Student Behaviour (formerly Safe Schools) has been drafted to focus on student behaviours, from the promotion of positive student behaviours to non-disciplinary responses and disciplinary responses. This policy includes references to other safe schools policies in this category including a reference to a new exclusion and modified day policy, which is being finalized and will be distributed to you as soon as it is complete.

The following policy has been amalgamated into the Safe Schools Managing Student Behaviour Policy due to its natural fit within this policy's context:

- P.040.SCO Withdrawal of Transport Privileges

#### P.145.SCO Safe Schools (Emergency Preparedness and Response) (Appendix C)

A new policy P.145.SCO Safe Schools (Emergency Preparedness and Response) has been developed that will address some aspects formerly included in P.032.SCO Safe Schools. This new policy amalgamates the following two safe schools policies into this policy:

- P.011.SCO Emergency School Evacuations/School Closings; and
- P.092.SCO - Crisis Prevention Intervention and Response.

### **Next Steps:**

Phase II consultations include modified timelines and delivery platforms recognizing the volume of priority consultation activities inviting engagement with many similar stakeholder groups. Two of the current consultations (Human Rights and Police Involvement in Schools policy consultations) may have some effect on the content of the revised safe schools policies and we will be able to make amendments to our revised policies where appropriate.

Continuation with Phase II of the consultation plan (see chart below) involves the sharing of draft policies to elicit feedback from community members in general and from selected stakeholder groups. The target date for presenting the revised policies for Board approval is June 2021.

<b>Phase II Activities</b>	<b>When will the activity take place?</b>	<b>Via what forum?</b>	<b>Who will be facilitating the Phase II activity?</b>

Public Distribution/ Access to Draft Policies	March, April, May 2021	OCDSB Website - Consultation Page and other electronic communications including newsletters and social media	Policy Development Team will reach out to OCDSB Communications Department
Direct Distribution of Draft Policies to selected stakeholder groups including those engaged in Phase 1 consultation activities	March, April, May 2021	Email	Policy Development Team will reach out to all groups listed in revised consultation plan
Facilitated Discussion Sessions with selected stakeholder groups who were not engaged in Phase 1 consultation activities	April, May 2021	Zoom/Google Meets	Policy Development Team will lead discussion sessions with stakeholders listed in revised consultation plan
On-going promotion for providing policy revision feedback Online	March, April, May 2021	Safe Schools Consultation Email: safeschools. consultation @ocdsb.ca	Policy Development Team will continue to monitor email account to receive feedback from the public

Attached:

Appendix A: Policy P.125.SCO

Appendix B: Policy P.145.SCO

Appendix C: Policy P.032.SCO

cc     Director's Executive Council  
         Board Services