



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Learning and Living in Faith*

## **POLICY – PO601**

# **Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy) in Schools**

Area: Student Conduct and Safety  
Source: Superintendent of Education – Safe Schools

Approved: June 11, 2018  
Revised: May 11, 2020; January 26, 2026

### **1. Introduction**

The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) strives to create safe and accepting learning environments for all students. The Board is committed to providing the necessary supports to allow students with prevalent medical conditions to fully participate in all aspects of the school day. The Board is also committed to empowering students with prevalent medical conditions to be confident and capable learners who can reach their full potential for self-management of their medical conditions, according to their plan of care.

### **2. Definitions**

**Adult Student** (*Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) – a student who has reached the age of 18, or is 16 or 17 and has withdrawn from parental control.

**Anaphylaxis** (*Sabrina’s Law*) – a severe systemic allergic reaction which can be fatal, resulting in circulatory collapse or shock.

**Asthma** (*Health Canada*) – a chronic condition characterized by cough, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and wheezing.

**Diabetes – Type 1** (*Framework for Diabetes in Canada*) – an autoimmune disease in which the body’s immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas.

**Diabetes – Type 2** (*Framework for Diabetes in Canada*) – a metabolic disorder that occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin and/or the body does not properly use the insulin it makes.

**Employee** (*Employment Standards Act*) – a person, including an officer of a corporation, who performs work for an employer for wages; a person who supplies services to an employer for wages; a person who receives training from a person who is an employer, as set out in subsection (2); or a person who is a homemaker; and includes a person who was an employee.

**Epilepsy** (*Public Health Agency of Canada*) – a brain disorder characterized by recurrent seizures.

### **3. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework to support students with prevalent medical conditions (i.e., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and/or anaphylaxis), through inclusive practices, collaborative planning, and safe learning environments.

### **4. Application / Scope**

This policy applies to all staff, students and their parents/guardians within the Durham Catholic District School Board.

### **5. Principles**

- 5.1 The Board acknowledges that, as per PPM 161 Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and/or epilepsy) in Schools:
  - 5.1.1 a whole-school approach is required to support students with prevalent medical conditions. Education and community partners, including healthcare professionals, have important roles to play in promoting and maintaining safe and healthy learning environments;
  - 5.1.2 supporting students with prevalent medical conditions requires a culture of collaborative professionalism, grounded in a trusting environment where schools and Board staff, the Ministry of Education and parents/guardians create the necessary conditions to learn with, and from, each other;
  - 5.1.3 all students have the right to be educated in an environment that is as safe as possible and that students who require life-saving medication should have ready access to it;
  - 5.1.4 parents/guardians and school staff must work together within the scope and mandate of this policy to implement strategies to mitigate the effects of life-threatening medical conditions;

- 5.1.5 while allergy-free environments cannot be guaranteed, preventative strategies (e.g., imposed restrictions) can greatly minimize the occurrence of a life-threatening allergic reaction;
- 5.1.6 current and up-to-date information shared by parents/guardians and students is critical to developing student-specific emergency response plans for life-threatening incidents;
- 5.1.7 staff have a duty and responsibility to respond to life-threatening medical emergencies (e.g., the administration of medication and the engagement of paramedical services).

## **6. Requirements**

- 6.1 The Director of Education shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and amend them thereafter as the need may arise.
- 6.2 The Board shall ensure that schools have a clearly communicated process for parents/guardians to notify the school of their child's medical condition(s), and for co-developing, reviewing, and updating an individualized Plan of Care in collaboration with the principal or designate. This process shall be communicated to families at key points, including registration, diagnosis, and the start of each school year
- 6.3 School administrators shall ensure that all students diagnosed with prevalent medical conditions (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and anaphylaxis) are supported through individualized Plans of Care that promote safety, dignity, and full participation in school life.
- 6.4 The Board shall provide annual training and resources to all school staff who have direct contact with students with prevalent medical conditions.
- 6.5 The Board shall ensure that communication protocols are in place to share relevant medical information with staff and service providers, while respecting student privacy and confidentiality.
- 6.6 The Board shall ensure that Plans of Care are co-developed and reviewed annually in collaboration with parents/guardians, students (as appropriate), and relevant school staff.

## **7. Sources**

- 7.1 [Education Act, RSO 1990](#)
- 7.2 [PPM 161 Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions \(anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes and/or epilepsy\) in Schools](#)
- 7.3 [PPM 81 Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings](#)
- 7.4 [Food Allergy Canada: http://foodallergyca.ca/resources/print-materials/](http://foodallergyca.ca/resources/print-materials/)
- 7.5 [Allergy Aware: www.allergyaware.ca](http://www.allergyaware.ca)

- 7.6 Sabrina's Law: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05s07>
- 7.7 Asthma Canada: <http://www.asthma.ca>
- 7.8 The Lung Association – Ontario: [www.lunghealth.ca/resources](http://www.lunghealth.ca/resources)
- 7.9 Ryan's Law: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/15r03>; and [www.ryanslaw.ca](http://www.ryanslaw.ca)
- 7.10 Diabetes at School: <http://www.diabetesatschool.ca/>
- 7.11 Epilepsy Ontario: <http://epilepsyontario.org/>
- 7.12 Health Canada

## **8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures**

- 8.1 Anaphylactic Students (Protection of) Administrative Procedure (AP601-1)
- 8.2 Asthma Friendly Schools Administrative Procedure (AP601-2)