



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

POLICY – PO435

Partnerships

Area: Operations

Source: Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities Services

Approved: November 22, 2010 (PO435); June 25, 2012 (PO438)

Revised: November 23, 2015 (PO435); May 8, 2017 (PO438); January 26, 2026

1. Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) supports partnerships that are consistent with its vision and mission statements, existing policies and administrative procedures and the faith traditions, beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church.

2. Definitions

Nil

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the Board to develop partnerships with external agencies/organizations.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all agencies/organizations who wish to enter into a formal partnership to provide services and supports that benefit the Board, students and the community.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board recognizes that:

5.1.1 it is responsible for optimizing the use of its public assets;

5.1.2 cooperative and collaborative partnerships are part of the foundation of a strong, vibrant and sustainable publicly funded education system and that effective partnerships must respect the Board’s core values;

- 5.1.3 the development of partnerships with other agencies/organizations may serve to strengthen the role of schools in communities, provide a place for programs and facilitate the coordination of services for students and the wider community;
- 5.1.4 all agencies/organizations that are being considered for partnership will undergo a due diligence check. The due diligence checks will be the responsibility of the Board; and
- 5.1.5 the Partnerships Policy (PO435) will not prevent the Board from building, renovating or closing schools or from disposing of surplus assets when required (per Ontario Regulation 374/23 Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property).

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education, or designate, will issue administrative procedures to support this policy and amend them as the need may arise.
- 6.2 Partnerships must:
 - 6.2.1 be documented in writing;
 - 6.2.2 protect the health and safety of students and staff;
 - 6.2.3 respect the values of the Durham Catholic District School Board and the faith traditions, beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church;
 - 6.2.4 be appropriate for the school setting;
 - 6.2.5 not compromise the Board's student achievement strategy;
 - 6.2.6 not provide competing educational services; and
 - 6.2.7 be financially viable and any procured services from a partner would be subject to the Board's Broader Public Procurement Services Policy (PO109).
- 6.3 The Board in its sole discretion shall determine what agencies/organizations are acceptable as partners in existing or planned facilities.
- 6.4 Partnerships with external agencies for provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals shall comply with PPM 149.
- 6.5 All organizations/agencies that are being considered for partnerships will be subject to a vetting process. An integral part of the vetting process will be determining availability of space.

- 6.6 The Board has the authority to make decisions regarding the use of its facilities that are consistent with the Education Act, municipal zoning and other legal restrictions.
- 6.7 The Board will, as needed, communicate with interested partners, regarding available spaces or potential partnership opportunities.

7. Sources

- 7.1 [Education Act](#)
- 7.2 [Ontario Regulation 374/23 Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property](#)
- 7.3 [Ministry of Education – Policy Program Memorandum 149: Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals and Paraprofessionals](#)

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 [Community Use of Schools Policy \(PO412\)](#)
- 8.2 [Community Use of Schools Administrative Procedure \(AP412-1\)](#)
- 8.3 [Pupil Accommodation Review Policy \(PO430\)](#)
- 8.4 [Pupil Accommodation Review Administrative Procedure \(AP430-1\)](#)
- 8.5 [Access to School Premises Policy \(PO604\)](#)
- 8.6 [Access to School Premises Administrative Procedure \(AP604-1\)](#)
- 8.7 [Smoke, Tobacco and Vape Free Environment Policy \(PO407\)](#)
- 8.8 [Smoke, Tobacco and Vape Free Environment Administrative Procedure \(AP407-1\)](#)
- 8.9 [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy \(PO201\)](#)
- 8.10 [Partnerships Administrative Procedure \(AP435-1\)](#)