



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

POLICY – PO416

School Level Fundraising

Area: Operations
Source: Chief Financial Officer

Approved: October 22, 2001
Revised: November 9, 2020; May 25, 2026

1. Introduction

Fundraising activities play an important role in enriching the educational experience of students and nurturing a strong sense of community within and beyond the school environment. The Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) recognizes that all fundraising efforts must reflect our Catholic values, be transparent, and comply with Ministry of Education guidelines and applicable legislation.

The Board seeks to maintain integrity, accountability, and community trust in all fundraising practices.

2. Definitions

School Fundraising (*Ministry of Education School Fundraising Guideline*) – any activity allowed under a school board’s policy, to raise money or other resources for a school. Fundraising may take place on or off school property.

3. Purpose

This policy establishes clear expectations for planning, approving, and conducting school level fundraising initiatives. It ensures that funds are raised and used responsibly, equitably, and in ways that benefit all students.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all groups involved in fundraising within a school and the Board, including the principals, staff, students, Catholic school councils and other parent/guardian groups.

5. Principles

- 5.1 The Board acknowledges that:
 - 5.1.1 funds raised for school purposes are used to complement, not replace, public funding for education;
 - 5.1.2 the purposes for which funds are collected must be consistent with the Board's mission, vision and in accordance with Catholic values; and
 - 5.1.3 school fundraising activities should reflect the diversity, values and priorities of the school community.

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 Fundraising activities must be compliant with Ministry of Education School Fundraising Guidelines and Board policies, such as Healthy Food and Beverage Policy (PO419), Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (PO216), Partnerships Policy (PO435), and the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directives.
- 6.3 Funds raised for school purposes should not be used to support items funded through provincial grants, such as classroom learning materials, textbooks, and repairs for capital projects that significantly increase operating costs.
- 6.4 Fundraising activities are strictly voluntary.
- 6.5 Student safety must be a primary consideration in all fundraising activities.
- 6.6 Fundraising activities should be developed and organized with advice and assistance from the school community, including students, staff, Catholic School Council, parents/guardians, local parishes and community organizations, where applicable;
- 6.7 Fundraising activities may not result in any person, including school board staff or volunteers, receiving a financial or material benefit, meaning any personal gain, payment, gift, discount, preferential treatment, or other tangible advantage beyond reimbursement of pre-approved, reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the school or board;
- 6.8 Fundraising must have a clearly communicated designated purpose, and the proceeds must be used for that purpose; and
- 6.9 Crowdsourcing through independent third-party collections such as GoFundMe are prohibited due to risk.

7. Sources

- 7.1 [Broader Public Sector Procurement Directives](#)
- 7.2 [Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline](#)
- 7.3 [Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy](#)
- 7.4 [Ministry of Education, Guidelines for School Fundraising](#)
- 7.5 [Ministry of Education, School Food and Beverage Policy](#)
- 7.6 [Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)
- 7.7 [Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation Act](#)

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 [School Generated Funds Policy \(PO104\)](#)
- 8.2 [School Generated Funds Administrative Procedure \(AP104-1\)](#)
- 8.3 [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy \(PO201\)](#)
- 8.4 [Catholic School Councils and Parent Involvement Committee \(PO211\)](#)
- 8.5 [Catholic School Councils Administrative Procedure \(AP211-1\)](#)
- 8.6 [School Level Fundraising Administrative Procedure \(AP416-1\)](#)
- 8.7 [Sponsorship for Board Activities and School Activities and Events Policy \(PO423\)](#)